



## Rabbani forces plan decisive war against Talibans in Farah

SHINDAND, Afghanistan (AFP) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani's troops are poised for an imminent offensive against the armed Taliban religious movement in the western Farah province, officials said.

"We are going to attack the Talibans sometime in the next few days," vowed a pro-Rabbani commander Najim Khan, two days after Mr. Rabbani's visit to the frontlines east of Shindand military airbase.

A decisive battle appears to be brewing on this frontline, located in the mountains 50-60 kilometres east of the strategic Shindand airbase, an AFP correspondent in the area observed.

Jet strikes are being launched daily in order to soften up the Talibans.

Mr. Rabbani, in the company of his Jamiat-e-Islami faction ally, Herat Provincial governor Ismael Khan, flew by military helicopter on Wednesday from Shindand to a desert base where his troops were being marshalled for the attack.

In a morale-boosting speech to assembled fighters, Mr. Rabbani denounced the recently emerged Talibans as agents of foreign powers, but he did not name the sponsors.

Although Ismael Khan is both governor of Herat and boss of several neighbouring provinces, his armed forces were not able to check the advance of the Talibans, who about six weeks ago pushed into Farah province threatening, though not capturing, Shindand airbase.

To stop the Talibans, Mr. Rabbani's main ally, ex-Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud, was called upon to urgently dispatch some 2,000 of his best fighters to Farah, where they have joined Ismael Khan's men.

## At least 44 killed when train hit bus in Egypt

QUWEISNA, Egypt (R) — At least 44 people were killed and 45 injured on Saturday when a mainline Egyptian train smashed into a bus packed with textile workers on their way to a Nile Delta factory, a police general said.

The wreckage of the bus, mixed up with shoes and clothing, was spread over 200 metres of track near a level crossing on the outskirts of the delta town of Quweisna, 55 kilometres north of the capital Cairo.

"It was horrible. The bus started moving and for the next few seconds all I saw was my friends scattered all over the line," said Ghada Mohammad, 25, one of the survivors.

"All the workers were shouting 'there's a train coming. There's a train coming,' but it was too late," added Sanaa Arafa Mohammad, 23, another survivor.

"The next thing I knew I was flying up in the air and there were bodies everywhere," she told Reuters at Quweisna hospital, where most of the dead and injured were taken.

Police Major-General Mohammad Khidir, assistant interior minister for the central Delta region, told reporters that the 44 confirmed dead included at least eight travelling on the roof of the train — a common practice in Egypt.

Ms. Mohammad and other

and others on the frontline. "My programme is to push the Taliban back to Kandahar," said Najim Khan, who commands Mr. Masoud's own special corps of shock troops.

The Talibans, who started movement in the southern capital Kandahar several months ago, successfully thrust in two directions, north to Kabul and west to Farah, capturing nine provincial capitals in just over six weeks.

Also present with Mr. Rabbani during his visit to the Farah front were the commanders and men from several factions previously based in Kandahar, including Rasul Sayyaf's Ittihad-e-Islami and Pir Sayed Ahmad Gailani's Mabaz-e-Milli, who are now keen to regain their lost territory and prestige.

In addition to the Sukhoi SU-22 jets seen taking off from Shindand for bombing attacks against the Talibans, pro-Rabbani troops were observed firing Russian-made howitzers and many salvos of long-range rockets against their rivals.

Frontline troops were resupplied with Kalashnikov ammunition and anti-tank rockets Friday, as well as Chinese-made rockets which can be leaned against a rock and fired without a launching device, just a simple battery.

Reports reaching Najim Khan indicated that the Talibans have been bringing up reinforcements, either to defend their line or to make an attack themselves. In either case pro-Rabbani troops are confident of a battle-field success.

"The enemy is very weak. They are bringing untrained recruits to the frontline where they have no chance against us," commented Na-jim Khan.



RIOTS IN GREECE: A riot policeman kicks a young demonstrator during heavy clashes between anarchists and police in central Athens. The riots started during a

demonstration by some 200 anarchists following the stabbing of one of their friends a few days ago by a young fascist (AFP photo)

## Hank Brown sees Gaza as key to Mideast peace

CAIRO (AP) — The key to pushing forward the Mideast peace process lies in solving the overwhelming problems facing the Gaza Strip, the chairman of a U.S. Senate sub-committee on the Middle East said Saturday.

Sen. Hank Brown of Col- orado made the remark after meeting with President Hosni Mubarak. A Mubarak aide said the talks also touched on nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but denied Washington was pressuring Egypt to vote for indefinite renewal of the pact.

Mr. Brown, a Republican who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on the Middle East, said he and Mr. Mubarak agreed solving Gaza's myriad problems was the first step to achieving peace in the volatile region.

"It is critical to find jobs and opportunities for Palesti-

nians in the Gaza Strip," he said. "Progress there will be the key toward further progress in other negotiations."

He also said that Israel's sealing off of the Gaza Strip, which resulted from attacks on Israelis, contributed to anger at Israel and more assaults by Palestinian groups opposed to the peace process.

Mr. Brown, who visited Syria on Thursday, was asked about the status of peace talks between the Syrians and Israelis, and said he believed achieving stability in Gaza also could push forward Syrian-Israeli talks.

Mr. Brown said Mr. Mubarak and he did not talk directly about the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but Osama Al Baz, the president's chief political adviser, said the two men touched on the subject.

Mr. Brown noted that

Egypt's attempt to get all countries to back renewal of the 25-year-old pact was "worthwhile."

Relations between the United States and Egypt have been strained by Mr. Mubarak's insistence that his government would not back renewal of the treaty unless Israel signs the anti-nuclear convention for the first time.

The United States is pushing for an indefinite renewal of the treaty.

Asked if he thought Israel should sign the treaty, Mr. Brown said only "I believe all countries should sign."

Israel, which is believed to

have a nuclear arsenal of up to 300 warheads, has refused to sign. It has never admitted to having nuclear weapons.

Mr. Baz, asked if Washington was pressuring to change its stand on the path, said: "The U.S. has not exerted or attempted to exert any pres-

ure on us."

He added that Egypt has not decided how it will vote when the treaty comes up for renewal before the United Nations next week.

"We are giving Israel the full opportunity to move, to understand, and then we should evaluate positively... and then we will decide which way to vote," he said.

Dr. Baz insisted that Egypt's stand was not aimed at Israel alone but at convincing all nations to sign the anti-nuclear treaty. But he said that Israel's nuclear weapons programme could lead to a broad arms race.

"This requires Israel to think of phasing out its nuclear programme because the existence of a nuclear programme in any state would encourage others to follow suit," he said. "This will bring about the danger of having a nuclear arms race."

## Militants kill council employee in south Egypt

MINYA, Egypt (AFP) — Islamic militants shot dead a town council employee in the troubled Minya region of southern Egypt Saturday, police said.

Reda Amin Khalil, 40, was killed as he was travelling to work on his bicycle from Manshet Al-Magharia village to Mallawi, some 300 kilometres south of Cairo.

Police said the gunmen, who suspected him of being an informer, fled after attacking the official as he cycled across a bridge.

Khalil's death raised to 737

the number of people killed in unrest since the militants launched a violent anti-

government campaign in March 1992.

In Nawai village near Malawi five people were shot dead Friday in revenge attacks against the families of Islamic militants suspected of killing a police guard.

Three unknown gunmen killed Saber Mahmud Abdul Hakim, a village guard, outside his home in Nawai village, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, the ministry said in a statement carried by the official Egyptian news agency MENA.

But eyewitnesses said they recognised the attackers as village residents known to be

members of the outlawed Gamia Islamiyah group — Mohammad Tawfiq Hassan, Hamada Rabii Abdul Hakim and Nasser Hassan Akram.

Enraged villagers and relatives of the guard later attacked the nearby homes of Hassan and Abdul Hakim, where they shot dead Nabila Nashid Sind, Hassan's mother, his three-year-old niece Asma Hassan Tawfiq and another relative, Hassan Ali Ibrahim, the ministry said.

They also killed Abdul Hakim's aunt and uncle, Fathiya and Ramadan Abdul Hakim, according to the

ministry.

Police said the three

attackers escaped and the ministry did not report any arrests of villagers.

Amid fears of an outbreak of vendetta killings, police brought in armoured vehicles and security reinforcements to seal off the village, which is home to approximately 8,000 residents.

Police refused to allow investigators onto the scene, saying the situation was not safe.

The villages of southern Egypt are known for long-lasting blood feuds between rival clans.

## Ciller ready for more democracy before meeting Clinton

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey appears prepared to make political concessions to its Kurdish minority and other citizens but is refusing to abandon its military campaign against Kurdish rebels.

Both issues will be raised next week when Prime Minister Tansu Ciller visits Washington, which along with other Western allies has called for concessions on the political and military fronts.

Ms. Ciller said in a speech on Monday that it was essential to lift restrictions on freedom of expression in a move that would free dozens of people jailed for their views on the Kurdish issue.

"If necessary, we can call for a partial amnesty too," she said.

Turkey's Kurdish problem was highlighted on the international arena after some 35,000 Turkish troops moved inside northern Iraq to wipe

out Kurdish rebel camps last month.

Most Western countries urged an immediate withdrawal, or at least a timetable. Germany went a step further and imposed an arms embargo.

When President Bill Clinton receives Ms. Ciller at the White House on Wednesday, the theme will be similar.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott's visit here this week was a prelude to the Washington talks.

While Mr. Talbott stressed the U.S. concern that the Turkish military offensive in northern Iraq should be limited in scope and duration, he also underlined that the United States favoured the introduction of full cultural and ethnic rights for the Kurds.

Mr. Talbott also met with a group of Turkish human rights observers to get an inde-

pendent account of the situation.

"Washington seems determined to be extremely watchful over the issue and Turkey has no more chance of deceiving the world with false moves," Akin Birdal, the head of the human rights association, who attended the meeting, said.

Turkey has 12 million Kurds, who are banned from using their own language in broadcasting or education.

Since 1984, the Turkish military has been fighting rebels seeking Kurdish autonomy in southeastern Turkey. Critics of the government's refusal to grant Kurds ethnic rights say the policy has won the rebels thousands of sympathizers.

Ms. Ciller is also obliged to press ahead with the issue pending a European Parliament vote in October on a customs union agreement be-

tween the European Union and Turkey. The parliament threatened to reject it unless Ankara strengthens its democracy.

Ms. Ciller was quoted as saying in an interview with a Turkish daily that the democratisation process would speed up in the next few months, but she has refused to set a date for the army's pullout from northern Iraq.

The prime minister has also said she favours lifting a ban on civil servants joining unions or political parties and that she is ready to crack down on human rights abuses.

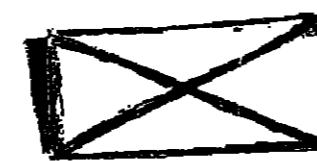
The Turkish operation involves the section of northern Iraq controlled by Iraqi Kurds who want independence from Baghdad. It is out of reach of the Iraqi military.

A U.S.-led allied air force has patrolled the area since the end of the Gulf war.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bahraini Shi'ite Muslim leader put in prison

NICOSIA (R) — Bahrain jailed on Saturday a Shi'ite Muslim leader who has been living under house arrest for the past two weeks, his son said. "Sheikh (Abdul Amr) Jamri was taken away from his house to the notorious Oala's prison," Mansoor Al Jamri said in a fax sent to Reuters from London. No further details were immediately available. Security forces last month besieged Bani Jamil village and placed the respected cleric under house arrest. At least two people died in clashes outside the home of Sheikh Jamri, a member of a parliament dissolved 20 years ago. Bahrain residents reported fresh anti-government protests on Wednesday night after a few days' full anti-riot security but there were no reports of casualties or arrests. At least 10 civilians and three policemen have been reported killed in clashes outside the home of Sheikh Jamri, a member of a parliament dissolved 20 years ago. 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## Crown Prince to open meeting by Arab Contractors Union

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday will open a three-day conference organised by the Arab Contractors Union in cooperation with the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA), according to JCA President Mohammad Issa Murad.

Mr. Murad told the Jordan Times that delegates will discuss several working papers including those from the JCA dealing with pan-Arab development and its effects on the contracting and construction business of the Arab

World, inter-Arab cooperation in contracting operations as well as cooperation between Arab contractors with the international confederation of Contractors which is based in Paris and other organisations.

Mr. Murad said that the delegates will include representatives of several Arab and foreign organisations concerned with construction and contracting business.

Experts from the Arab Contractors Union, which was founded in 1984, as well as prominent economists and representatives of Arab

banks will participate in the coming three-day conference.

He said the Arab delegates will discuss among other topics the role of Arab contractors in implementing World Bank-financed projects in the Arab World.

Awni Saker, president of the Arab Contractors Union, said that Amman was selected by the union for the meeting in view of the current economic efforts being made in Jordan, including in construction, and because of the Kingdom's strategic geographic location.



OPENING AN EDUCATIONAL WEEK: Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh (centre) Saturday opens the Scientific and Cultural Week of Al Qadisiyah College in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture. The activities of the week include seminars and lectures on the right photo)

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Minister heads for legal meeting in Doha

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Justice Hisham Tel Saturday left for Qatar to attend the meetings of the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee which will convene in Doha from April 17 to 22. Mr. Tel told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the committee will discuss issues such as refugees, water rights and other topics of importance in the Arab and international arenas. Mr. Tel is accompanied on the visit by chief of the cassation court Judge Yousef Al Humoud and Director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department: Tawfiq Al Khalidi.

#### Turkish industrial fair to start April 22

AMMAN (Petra) — A Turkish industrial fair will be held at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman from April 22 to 24. Several major Turkish industrial companies will participate in the fair which aims to acquaint the Jordanian public and commercial sector of Turkish products. The head of the Turkish exhibitions committee, Majdi Balghouti, said the fair also aims to encourage launching joint ventures between Jordanian and Turkish businesses and private sector establishments. The fair will display food supplies, leather products, engines and car spare parts, medical supplies, chemicals, construction materials, air conditioners and other products.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Samer Osama at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 13 leading Jordanian artists at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 699348).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Mahrul Din Adham at Balqas Art Gallery, Fuheis.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Hadiya Mu'asibah at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Ahmad Na'wash at Ab'd Art Gallery.
- ★ A collection of photos of Middle East doors by Julie Reinhardt at the Gallery, off the main lobby, Inter-Continental Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Moroccan artist Farid Belkhiria at Darat Al Funan of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Yassim Atiyeh and Yassin Al Muhammadi at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of copper sculptures by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Jadi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ★ Exhibition of graphic works by Rafiq Lahham at Darat Al Funan. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Leo Rispoli at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

#### FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Omega Man" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

#### SPRING BAZAAR

- ★ Spring bazaar (organised by the United Nations Women's Guild) including handicrafts, ceramics, potpourri, T-shirts, home-made goods, clothing and others at the Royal Cultural Centre (10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)

#### POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital by Dr. Jamal Qu'war at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

#### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "The Responsibility of Parents and School in Education" by Nafisah Al 'Abed at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

#### Kurdish rebels stage attacks

(Continued from page 1)

statement urging the Turkish government to declare a ceasefire and negotiate a political element.

Mr. Ocalan also assured western governments that PKK would not carry out acts of violence in Europe.

Mr. Ocalan urged Marxist revolutionary groups backed by the Soviet Union, Mr. Ocalan urged many and other Western governments to stop arming the key and put pressure on Ankara to negotiate peace.

At every opportunity, we expressed our desire for

a peaceful and democratic solution to this conflict. We are ready for a mutual ceasefire, referendum, open dialogue and democratic debate," his statement, sent to a Kurdish news agency in Europe and forwarded to Ankara, said.

Turkey bans the PKK as a "terrorist" organisation and has refused earlier calls for negotiations. It rejected a ceasefire offer a year ago and says the PKK is virtually finished.

More than 15,000 people have been killed in Turkey since the radical PKK took

up arms in 1984, the latest chapter in a history of conflict that dates to the Ottoman empire before World War I.

Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu said on Friday the operation in northern Iraq would take weeks. Government and army leaders meeting in Ankara said the incursion was continuing successfully.

Turkish soldiers interviewed in their tents near the Iraqi town of Zakho on Saturday said all was quiet.

"As you can see, it is very quiet here. But I really don't know when we may pull out. Ciller is in the States. Maybe after that something will happen," said one soldier.



Rima Khalaf

#### AFSED grants Jordan JD45m loan to finance power link

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Saturday said that Jordan has been granted a loan of 19.5 million Kuwaiti dinars (JD45 million) to finance the Jordanian part of a project linking the national power grids of Syria and Jordan.

Speaking upon her return from Muscat, where she led Jordan's delegation to an annual meeting of governors of the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development (AFSED), Dr. Khalaf said that the power linkage project entails linking the two neighbouring countries' grids and building a transformer station to enable Jordan and Syria to exchange power supplies.

The Syria-Jordan power linkage, said the minister, is part of an overall project linking the electric grids of five Middle Eastern countries: Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Turkey.

The five countries signed the power linkage accord in January 1994 and announced that the project would be carried out in stages with target completion date of 2002.

The project's first stage would be completed by 1997, the second by 1998 and the final stage by 2002, according to Ma'hadim Azzam, secretary of a technical committee coordinating between the five states.

Egypt and Jordan have been working on linking up their own power network before the idea of the five-nation power link up materialised.

According to Minister Khalaf, who signed the loan agreement with AFSED, the linkage between Syria and Jordan would take place from a point north of Amman.

But, she also said that the project entails expansion of the transformer station located south of Amman and installing telecommunications and control equipment as well as building a transformer station west of Amman.

The Jordanian delegation, which included representatives of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) attended the AFSED board meeting which discussed the fund's report on its activities in 1994 and its future plans.

## 3 witnesses in Abequa trial expected to arrive from U.S.

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three American witnesses are expected to arrive in Jordan in the next few days to testify in the case of Mohammad Ismail Abequa, a naturalised U.S. citizen charged with the murder of his wife and kidnapping his two children in the U.S., the Criminal Court said Saturday.

Following a ten-minute session Saturday in the Abequa trial, Judge Abdul Rahman Tawfiq set Tuesday for the resumption of the trial at the request of the Prosecutor General Khalid Darwish to allow key witnesses more time to travel to Jordan from the United States.

"Witnesses from the U.S. were unable to arrive today, but they will be in court next Tuesday and I request postponement of the session," Mr. Darwish told the court.

Mr. Abequa, a Jordanian with U.S. citizenship, is accused of strangling his 40-year-old wife, Nihal, in her apartment in New Jersey on July 4 over a dispute over the custody of their two children Lisa, 7, and Sami, 4, then fleeing the U.S. to Jordan with the children.

Others expected to arrive in Jordan Monday with Ms. Dokur and Mr. Denamin are Ms. Dokur's lawyer, Nancy Feinberg, Sharon Waxman, an aide to New Jersey Senator Frank Lautenberg, Radi Barakat, an Interpol employee, and Michael Murphy, the Morris County prosecutor, the AP said.

Ms. Dokur, to Jordan on Aug. 2, at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein who intervened in the case, to help solve the child custody case. She was accompanied by her two attorneys, a U.S. senator's secretary and her daughter.

The sources, however, would not reveal the name

of the third witness or the date of his/her arrival. The Associated Press (AP), quoting Jordanian officials, said that the third witness is Linda Sue Montgomery, a travel agent.

However, the children were flown out of the Kingdom on Aug. 17 with Ms. Dokur, while the Abequa family and supporters were staging a three-hour sit-in outside then-Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's office demanding that the children stay in Jordan.

Press reports from New Jersey said the Jordanian government granted the witnesses diplomatic safe passage through the country to protect Ms. Dokur, the AP said.

Mr. Abequa, who is with first degree murder and kidnapping pleaded innocent to all charges in the opening session of the trial April 3.

## 'Sex hotline' services cause problems Citing moral corruption, minister appeals to press not to accept 'friendship services' advertisements

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Citing moral corruption and a drain on national resources, Jordanian authorities appealed to local newspapers on Saturday not to accept advertisements from abroad offering "friendship" services — publicly correct jargon for "sex talk."

Minister of Post and Telecommunications Jamal Saraih said he was prompted to issue the appeal after receiving a flood of complaints from parents that they were receiving huge telephone bills including calls that they did not make.

Mr. Saraih told reporters that there was no doubt that the calls were indeed made and suggested that they could have been made by teenage sons or daughters without their parents' knowledge.

In any case, he said, the ministry was unable to accommodate the parents' request for relief from the bills.

The minister said that, in principle, the government did not have the authority to order newspapers not to carry advertisements offering "friendship" services, and that it was up to the newspaper establishments themselves to adopt a policy of turning down the advertisements.

Nor can the government block off calls to any specific number abroad unless it opts for the illogical move to sealing off Jordan's entire phone links with the country.

The minister cited several cases where middle-income families getting stuck with phone bills of hundreds of dinars, and, in one instance, more than 2,000 for a

schoolteacher whose monthly income is around JD 200.

Most of the calls — many of them of more than one hour duration at more than JD 1.5 per minute — were placed to Canada and several Latin American countries, the minister said.

Among those making the complaints to the government was a mother from an average middle-income family, saddled with a teenage son and a JD 2,000 telephone bill. She sought the help of two Parliament members to intervene with the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) for relief arguing that her husband was unaware of their son's "hobby," and there would be "serious family trouble" when he found out. But the minister said, there was nothing the TCC

could do to help her.

Beyond the huge bills shouldered by families which can ill-afford them, the government also pays for telephone services in foreign currency, and, as such, there is an unwanted drain on the foreign exchange reserves of the country, the minister noted.

Added to the cumulative effect of the unwanted burdens on the citizens and government is the moral corruption that such calls represent, he noted.

The modus operandi of the "hotlines," according to people familiar with the business, is to make an arrangement with the concerned telephone company to hike the rates and pay the difference to the "hotline" companies.

Advertisements of dubious

value have been rare in the Jordanian press, and con

schemes are relatively easy to be bust in the Kingdom. But the very nature of the "services" offered — sex talk — makes it a lucrative business.

"We cannot force the newspapers to stop accepting such advertisements, but we appeal to them to stop doing so for national considerations," said the minister.

Ads offering "personal" or "friendship" services are relatively new to Jordan, but for all practical purposes they are "sex hotlines" or "love lines" — as they are known in the West — re-hashed for legitimacy in the conservative societies of the Middle East, officials say.

The Jordan Times placed a call on Saturday to a number in Canada appearing in an advertisement in the local press.

An Arabic-speaking female answered the phone and identified the number as that of "an organisation which arranges friendly calls with anybody in Canada or in many of the Arab countries."

"The only condition is that all calls go through our number since we cannot give out the telephone numbers of anyone for direct calls," said the voice. "You can speak for as much as you want."

"We are open 24 hours," added the husky voice, inquiring whether the caller had anything "specific in mind" and offered to put "Tamara, a Jordanian girl," on the line.

The connection was cut off before the conversation proceeded any further, but it was clear that that the "friendship service" was nothing less than "phone sex."



## Stores, schools close as Tokyo fears new attack

TOKYO (AP) — Helicopters patrolled Tokyo's skies and thousands of police, some in bulletproof vests and riot gear, guarded train stations Saturday in response to a prediction of disaster by the cult suspected in the city's nerve gas attack.

Two department stores were closed and classes were suspended at several schools. Streets and trains in Tokyo's central Shinjuku District were unusually empty.

Police also guarded movie theatres, airports and sports stadiums. The military's largest chemical warfare unit was placed on alert, reports said.

No incidents had been reported by late afternoon. The massive mobilisation, involving more than 10,000 police in Tokyo alone, demonstrated how frightened the city has become since the March 20 nerve gas attack on its subway system killed 11 and sickened thousands.

The religious cult Aum Shinri Kyo, or Supreme Truth, is the chief suspect in that attack. It denies involvement.

Police inspectors for the first time Saturday determined that the cult made sarin, the nerve gas used in the subway attack, in a building at its compound at the

foot of Mount Fuji in central Japan, according the public NHK Television Network.

Daily searches at cult facilities since the attack have turned up tons of chemicals and equipment that police say could have been used to make sarin.

But the Saturday's discovery, if true, would be the first time police had found the nerve gas itself, and not just its ingredients. The cult says the chemicals on its property were to make fertilizers, computer chips and other products.

In a book published last month, the sect's leader, Shoko Asahara, predicted that disaster would strike Tokyo Saturday, sparking fears of an attack by the group.

Chief government spokesman Kozo Igashira said the fears might be baseless, "but we must be cautious about everything so that the people can be free of worry."

Cult members warned relatives and friends that a "horrible" event might happen in Shinjuku, one of Tokyo's most popular entertainment districts.

Even people who had nothing to do with the cult were heading news reports and staying home. Many who did venture out were nervous.

"My family told me not to

come to Shinjuku today," said Kyoko Yoshida, a recent college graduate. "But I have a job interview."

Grim-faced policemen patrolled the Shinjuku Station, normally the world's busiest.

Their protective riot shields were propped against several walls.

"We have had a variety of calls warning something would happen," said one officer. "We're taking them seriously."

Tokyo hospitals were urged to stock up on nerve gas antidotes as a precaution against an attack, newspapers said.

Even railway maintenance workers were pressed into security duty, and patrolled the station — a vast multi-tiered maze of shops and corridors — wearing helmets and bright yellow clothes.

"It's scary," said Yuki Sasaki, on a visit to Tokyo from the countryside. "It seems like Aum members could be hiding anywhere."

Evidence linking the cult to sarin, the nerve gas released in the subway attack, has made it the target of Japan's largest police investigation ever.

Police Saturday announced the arrest of cult member Masanobu Iwao, 35, on

suspicion of breaking into an electric company's laser research centre late last year. They said Mr. Iwao worked for a jewelry company operated by the sect.

The cult is interested in laser weapons and has acquired military gear, according to news reports. Police have found materials that indicate the cult was trying to manufacture its own guns.

A former member interviewed on television Saturday said he was involved in efforts by the cult to develop biological weapons between 1990 and 1992.

The man, whose name was withheld because of fear of retaliation, told the national NTV network that he helped process a mixture of toxic germs that the cult intended to spray from a sprinkler attached to the top of a truck.

Police have arrested at least 107 cult members on a variety of charges, none directly related to the subway attack. The sect charges the police actions amount to religious oppression.

Asahara, who has been missing since the subway attack, predicts a war between Christians and Buddhists will set off World War III in 1997 and says sect followers must prepare to survive.



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (centre) waves as he marches with his supporters to an election nomination centre in Kubang Pasu, Malaysia's northern Kedah state. Mr. Mahathir filled a nomination in

Kubang Pasu Parliamentary seat, facing opposition fundamentalist Party Islam (PAS) candidate Abdul Mohammad Alim. Malaysians will go to polls on April 24-25 to choose a new government (AFP photo)

## Mahathir's coalition wins 9 seats

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's ruling National Front coalition has won nine parliamentary seats uncontested in the April 24-25 general election, candidate lists announced Saturday.

Four cabinet ministers also won uncontested parliamentary seats in Sarawak: Education Minister Sulaiman Daud; Works Minister Leo Moggie; Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha.

The walkovers in timber and oil-rich Sarawak include the constituency of Sarawak's long-serving chief minister, or head of government, Abdul Taib Mahmud.

All the seats are in the Bornéo state of Sarawak. Nominations for 192 seats in the expanded national parliament and 394 seats in 11 of Malaysia's 13 state assemblies were formally announced Saturday, signalling the offi-

cial start of campaigning.

Mr. Mahathir, bidding for his fourth consecutive term as prime minister, marched with about 500 supporters Saturday to the nomination centre in his Kubang Pasu stronghold in northern Kedah state.

Half an hour later his opponent, Ahmad Mohd Alim of the All-Malaysian Islamic Party, or PAS as it is known by its initials in Malay, led a similar march of flag-waving backers.

## Horses shipped from Tunisia found abandoned in ship

MARSEILLE, France (AFP) — Officials here have discovered in a trailer 19 horses shipped from Tunisia, including one that died strangled by its own halter and two that had to be destroyed, the city's veterinary service said Friday. It said the 16 other horses were taken by truck to abattoirs in the French town of Nîmes and their meat sold for human consumption. The horses were discovered in the Marseille harbour shortly after being abandoned by the crew of the "Southern Trader" cargo ship that had transported them from Tunisia.

Officials said an investigation was underway to determine why the Tunisian export and the French firm that ordered them had transported the animals in "abnormal" conditions.

## Man chooses suicide over life sentence for stealing

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A thief who stole a \$146 videocassette recorder chose to kill himself rather than face the prospect of life in prison under a California law aimed at repeat criminals. "With him being HIV-positive, it was a death sentence," said Peter Liss, the attorney for Steven White. "He didn't deserve a death sentence for stealing a VCR." When police found White in a Las Vegas hotel room on April 6, he had shot himself in the chest and left three suicide notes: One to his family, another apologizing to police and a third blaming the state law. One note, quoted in Friday's editions of the San Diego Union-Tribune, said, "that all happened," because of the repeat offender law, which increases punishment for repeat criminals with records of violent or "serious" felonies. Mr. Liss said White had never been charged with a violent crime. White, 32, was convicted twice in 1983 for burglary, but served time in prison only for violating parole. He had fled San Diego on March 22, just before his trial was to begin.

District Attorney Paul Pflug had refused to consider Mr. White's case, calling him "a persistent career criminal."

## Champions overcome lost marbles

TINSLEY GREEN, England (AFP) — The British Marbles Championships went ahead here despite the near-loss of the competition marbles. A consignment of 300 new tournament marbles vanished en route from the Devon manufacturers to the village in West Sussex where the annual championships were being held. Serious marbles players set as much store by new marbles as tennis players by new balls. For a time the lost marbles threatened to scupper the contest. But organisers and players reconciled themselves to old marbles and scraped together enough to play

## Greek anarchist youths rampage through Athens

ATHENS (R) — Scores of young self-styled anarchists rampaged through central Athens Saturday, building blazing barricades on main avenues, hurling petrol bombs at riot police and smashing shop windows, police said.

Police fired dozens of rounds of teargas around the Athens Business School and Pantios University to try to disperse the masked youths.

About 20 people were arrested, police said. Three police officers and five other people were injured.

The clashes erupted when police tried to break up a march Friday evening by about 300 students and anarchists around the Athens Business School.

Anarchists have staged demonstrations for the past week to protest against the stabbing of two of their members by a right-wing youth.

Pitched battles between the anarchists and police continued into the early hours of Saturday after dozens of the youths took control over the

two school buildings. Police said dozens of anarchists were also held up in Pantios University and could be seen hurling rocks from the roof.

Large barricades built from school furniture and rubbish burned across the main Athens avenues of Syrigou and Patission. Expensive car showrooms were wrecked and rubbish bins were set on fire.

The anarchists, many wearing masks or faces wrapped in scarves, threw rocks, sticks and petrol bombs at police and taunted them by tearing apart a large Greek flag.

In the northern city of Salonica, police also reported clashes and burning barricades. An emergency meeting was held at Athens police headquarters early Saturday to try to decide how to deal with the violence.

Anarchists, who have no declared political views, have for years attended peaceful marches in Athens and then clashed with police.



Riot police arrest youngsters as a woman lies bleeding from the head after being hit by a stone thrown by one of the youths during heavy clashes between anarchists and police in central Athens (AFP photo)

## Haiti arrests suspect in Bertin killing

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — An arrest has been made in the murder of an outspoken opposition lawyer, a killing that embarrassed the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the U.S.-led mission that restored him to power.

A spokesman for the U.N. military mission in Haiti said Claude Lacroix was arrested Thursday in connection with the March 28 murder of Mireille Durocher Bertin. But Eric Falt was unable to provide details about Mr. Lacroix or any possible charges against him.

"At the moment, we don't wish to give supplementary details. It is too soon because of the nature of the investigation," Mr. Falt said Friday.

Ms. Bertin, 35, and a companion were killed on a busy street in the centre of the capital when gunmen sprayed their car with bullets.

Ms. Bertin was a prominent proponent and adviser of the military leaders who toppled Mr. Aristide in September 1991. Since the U.S.-led military mission returned him to power last fall, she had been one of Mr. Aristide's most vocal critics.

Nine days before Ms. Bertin's killing, the multinational force in Haiti was alerted to a plot to kill dozens of coup supporters and arrested six people accused of being involved.

Mr. Aristide's interior minister, Mondeus Beaubrun, was implicated in ordering the assassination, according to a March 22 letter to the Haitian government from the force commander, U.S. Gen. George Fisher.

Mr. Aristide's interior

## Documents suggest Germany, Japan sought negotiated end to war

ROME (AP) — Newly declassified OSS documents suggest that both Germany and Japan, using the auspices of the Vatican, tried to end the war before they were brought to their knees in unconditional surrender.

That secret U.S.-Japanese talks in Rome took place at all would appear to be a major revelation, although a Vatican historian cast doubt on the account. But the historian confirmed that contacts between the Vatican and Germany were made.

The documents describe meetings said to have taken place in February and March 1945, when it was clear allied might would bring heavy destruction to the two countries.

Germany, in fact, surrendered unconditionally on May 7, 1945, and Japan announced its surrender on Aug. 14 after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The documents were obtained by the Simon Wiesenthal centre in Los Angeles from the archives of the OSS, forerunner of the CIA. They were apparently prepared by OSS informers, with two of them written in Italian. The documents were made available to the Associated Press.

The Vatican historian, Rev. Robert Graham, corroborated that a meeting was held between the German ambassador to the Vatican, Ernst Von Weizsäcker, and Pope Pius XII took place on March 1, 1945, as reported in the

document.

The Berlin government wished to know, in a completely private and secret way, if the Pope would be willing to act as a mediator with the enemies of Germany in this manner," was the message the ambassador was said to have brought.

But it attached such conditions that the Pope reportedly replied it would be useless to pursue "knowing that these conditions would be rejected from the beginning."

The documents describe the Nazi leadership would not be considered war criminals and would simply resign and be left in peace.

"The present German government is still capable of waging the war for a long time and to make the allies pay very dearly for this fight to the last drop of blood," the Pope was reportedly told.

Rev. Graham, an American Jesuit and expert on the Vatican's wartime archives, contends that Berlin believed that Von Weizsäcker may have been linked to the 1944 plot to kill Adolf Hitler and questioned whether the Nazi government would have trusted him to make such an offer. However, Rev. Graham suggested he may have been acting on his own.

A second document describes a meeting said to have taken place between Myron Taylor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal representative to the Vatican, and Japanese Ambassador H. K. Ito. The audience

of Mousignor Pio Rossignani, a relative of the Pope.

The Japanese ambassador, according to the document, was seeking a negotiated peace and Mr. Taylor promised to pursue the issue while cautioning that U.S. public opinion, still angered by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941, would likely be opposed.

A brief follow-up, written in English, said the Pope asked Fr. Rossignani to prepare a report on Japanese-U.S. peace negotiations and to give the results to the U.S. government.

They included that the Nazi leadership would not be considered war criminals and would simply resign and be left in peace.

"The present German government is still capable of waging the war for a long time and to make the allies pay very dearly for this fight to the last drop of blood," the Pope was reportedly told.

Rev. Graham said the report first surfaced years ago and that Mr. Taylor, who died in 1959, himself denied he ever met with the Japanese ambassador. Rev. Graham claimed the OSS used an unreliable operative in Rome.

Rabbi Martin Hier,

head of the Wiesenthal Centre,

said the documents were obtained under the centre's standing Freedom of Information Act request for U.S. government archival material on Pope Pius XII.

Jewish groups have long

questioned whether Pope Pius did all he could to spare European Jews from the holocaust. Rev. Graham and other church officials have defended Pope Pius from such criticism.

## Simpson judge: Prosecution broke rule by popping original document before jury

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The O.J. Simpson judge chastised prosecutors for playing unfair but still allowed them to show jurors the fourth page of a crime scene report that the defense had suggested was destroyed as part of a coverup.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito Friday said the prosecutors intentionally violated a court order when they failed to tell him and opposing lawyers that they had found the missing page.

In his slash-and-burn cross-examination, Defence Attorney Barry Scheck had accused criminalist Dennis Fung of replacing the page because it contained notations that conflicted with his account of when he received a vial of Simpson's blood.

Mr. Scheck produced the copied page with great fanfare Thursday, noting it was the only page of the report without staple holes. The lack of holes, Mr. Scheck contended, proved that another page was slipped into the report as part of a conspiracy to frame Simpson for

two murders. Minutes after that, Deputy District Attorney Hank Goldberg produced the original page in court and had Mr. Fung identify it, drawing vehement objections from the defense.

Mr. Goldberg refused to concede any wrongdoing. He said the defense was upset because its dramatic claim of conspiracy had been defeated. That permitted Mr. Goldberg to proceed with his redirect and show jurors the resurfaced crime report page. Mr. Fung said he found it while flipping through a notebook after his grueling cross-examination had concluded.

The page, which contained a blank space where officers normally note the time they depart a crime scene, was passed among jurors along with the copy they had seen Thursday. Some of them held the two documents up to the light to compare the marks left by the staples. holes on the original, black specks on the copy.

Mr. Goldberg's efforts to repair the damage done to Mr. Fung prompted a flurry of defense objections, sending attorneys racing to and from the judge's bench for legal arguments.





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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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## Resolution with an opening

THE U.N. Security Council resolution adopted Friday allowing Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months could be the beginning of the end of the sanctions imposed on the country in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis more than four years ago. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali echoed this assessment when he appealed to Baghdad to accept the offer. Understandably, the Iraqi government has many reservations about this latest move by the council to respond to the international cries for easing the untold hardships on the Iraqi people. And it is in this context that the fears expressed by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, basically about the resolution ending up as a substitute action, have to be viewed and understood.

Mr. Aziz and the rest of the Iraqi leadership must have been most concerned about the negative implications of the U.N. action on their country's sovereignty. It will be noted that the council's decision stipulates how the Iraqi oil could be exported, the revenues collected, and in the process depriving the country of certain aspects of its independence. While we can comprehend those anxieties and concerns and even be sympathetic with them, we believe that Iraq's overall interests are better served by accepting the U.N. offer. True, only two-thirds of the projected oil revenues would be put at the disposal of the Iraqi regime to spend on certain humanitarian purposes. Still, the amounts collected under this scheme would go a long way to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, who, after all, are paying the highest price ever for the colossal mistakes of the Gulf conflict.

What is most objectionable, though, is the allocation of nearly one-third of the income generated by the oil sale for war reparations. This is a disproportionate allocation of resources that should be corrected when the resolution is renewed at a future date. The fact that the latest resolution is renewable means that Iraq would be afforded another opportunity to introduce the necessary amendments. Iraq's acceptance of the U.N. gesture and how it goes about implementing it would lend additional support to the position of those who want to see a more balanced approach to Iraq's plight.

In relative terms, the U.N. action remains a marked improvement on the 1991 resolution permitting Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil under even more controversial conditions. Hopefully, even the most recent terms could be changed for the better when they are up for reconsideration in the future.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i said the U.N. Security Council decision to allow Iraq to sell limited supplies of oil will lead to a breach in the sanctions that were clamped on Iraq in August 1990, following its invasion of Kuwait. Saleh Al Qasem said that the decision was bound to strengthen the conviction among world nations that the sanctions are an abnormal measure, creating difficulties not only to the Iraqi people but also to the world community at large. The decision would also create a new situation allowing the Iraqis to pursue further efforts for the complete lifting of sanctions at a later stage, continued the writer. The decision, allowing Iraq to sell \$1 billion worth of oil every 90 days, was adopted by the council as proposed by the United States and Britain, which aimed at sending out a signal that they were indeed concerned with alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people, thus outbidding all other attempts by other nations to do so, said the writer. But, he said, the decision was largely a result of intensified Iraqi contacts with the U.N. Security Council members, and it would be most difficult for Washington or London to go back on the resolution or prevent other future favourable decisions once they have been put into force and proved to be working successfully.

WITH OBVIOUS reference to the recent violence at the University of Jordan, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Saturday that national unity should take priority over all other matters and the rule of the law should be enhanced by all means. The rule of the law constitutes the basic pillar of a modern society because it provides guarantees for security, stability and progress in the country, said the daily. The paper said that democratic rule which has been adopted as the most effective means enabling the country to enter the 21st century with confidence, also hinges on the basic element of national unity. Sectarianism, factional affiliation and racism have all become practices of the past, and cannot be tolerated in a modern democratic society and modern institutions, stressed the paper.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## An economic scenario for 1995: Will the government deliver?

JORDAN is an integral part of the Middle East, a region where no one can make a prediction with any degree of certainty. So many factors and variables are interacting in the Middle East to influence and sometimes alter the landscape, making uncertainty the rule of the game. A well-programmed computer with all available information being fed-in would explode if required to produce a meaningful projection for only one year ahead based on information pertaining to the past year.

Yet, if one is to venture into the future, drawing on the IMF projections, one is bound to end up with variations that depend on shifting environment and changing circumstances.

Unless an unexpected surprise takes place, economic growth in Jordan in 1995, expressed in real terms, will be in the order of six per cent. Inflation will not exceed 4.5 per cent, and the nominal exchange rate of the dinar against the dollar will only be in the range of plus or minus two percentage points.

Deficit in the central government budget, before foreign grants, is projected to decrease from 5.1 per cent of GDP to 4.3 per cent in 1995. However, the deficit may increase instead of decreasing if the fiscal policy is influenced by politics, pressure groups and appeasement tactics. Unfortunately it seems that Basel Jarashani, the present finance minister is not the same tough minister who used to be in his term between 1989 and 1993.

Deficit in the balance of trade (commodities) is not expected to decline, as it did in 1994, due to a decline in imports by 3.7 per cent and a rise in exports by about 15 per cent. Yet, trade deficit will continue to be less than it used to be in 1992 and 1993. However, it may drop even more if

the current trade recession continues all through 1995.

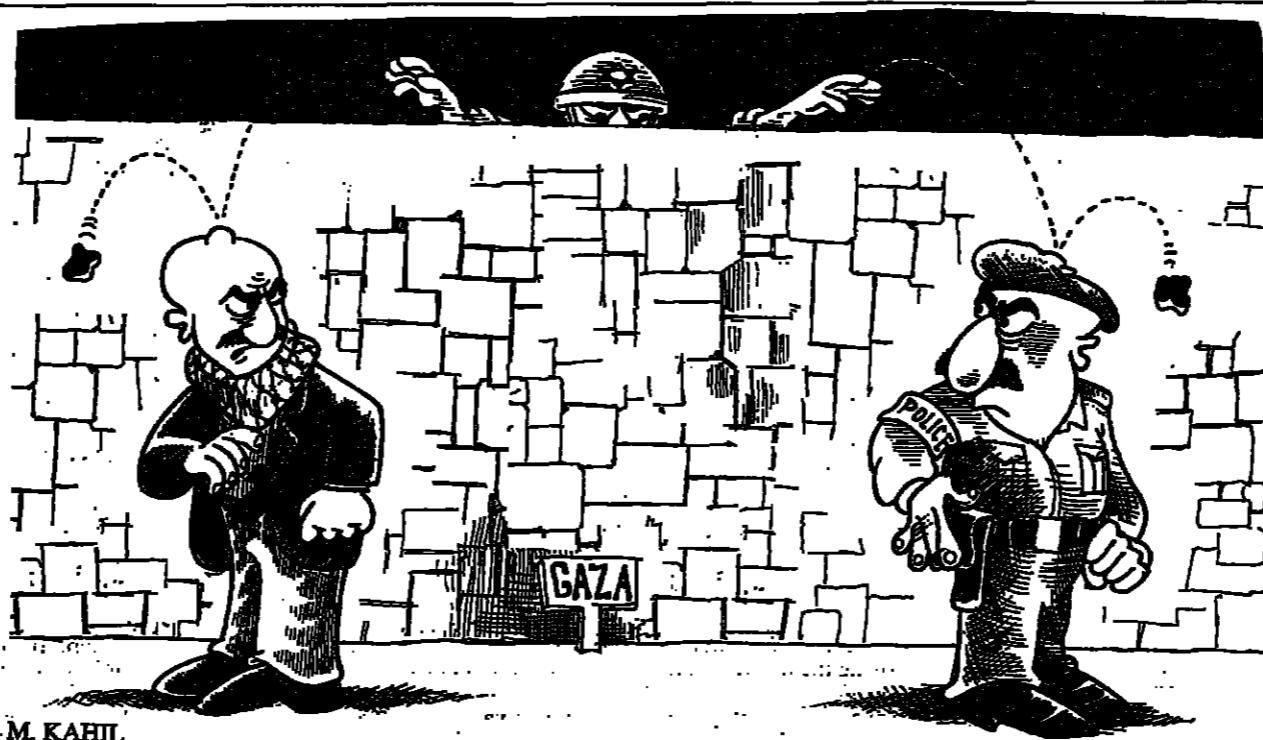
Deficit in the balance of trade is once more expected to narrow, albeit very slowly. The reduction in absolute figures will be minimal, but may give better reading as a percentage of GDP, from 8.8 per cent in 1994 to eight per cent in 1995.

Jordan's external indebtedness will rise by some 2.5 per cent due to capitalisation of interest on the one hand and excess borrowing over repayment on the other. The year may end up with a net indebtedness of \$7.1 billion. However, the deterioration of the dollar, if not reversed soon, will cause another increase in Jordan's indebtedness because the largest portion of the debt is in Japanese yen, German mark, and French franc.

External debt service is expected to top \$1,070 million in 1995, which is sufficient to swallow 50 per cent of the budget and over 24 per cent of the proceeds of exports in goods and services. However, taking re-scheduling into account will render the amount earmarked in the budget for debt service more than enough.

If everything went according to the above scenario, the Central Bank of Jordan will be able to increase net reserves in free exchange by \$100 million. Net reserves by the year end will stand at \$600 million, which can finance imports of 2.1 months instead of the present coverage of 1.8 months.

These are the targets of the Jordanian economy in 1995 as agreed by the government and the IMF in the last days of 1994 which were also the last days of the previous government. It is up to the present government to achieve more as was the case in most years, or to be content with less, in which case it has to look for excuses to justify its shortcomings.



## The transportation system: new problems with old solutions

By Dr. Shaker Mahadin

MOST OF the people who participate in conferences, speeches and television and radio programmes that deal with traffic accidents in Jordan are not specialists in transportation science and they are not familiar with modern science to encounter such problems. Everybody talks about traffic accidents, even the ministry of culture is suggesting solutions. What we are doing falls within the Third World mentality that everybody knows everything and few know something. No wonder we are still behind most developed countries in various ways.

The approach to transportation safety requires understanding how we got this problem in the first place. Why are we here trying to do something but end up doing nothing. The ignorance of transportation systems, the lack of national transportation policy and the absence of a qualified authority to regulate and control this system are but few of many reasons behind our traffic problems.

Solutions cannot be achieved unless we fully understand the problem.

We have to use the modern technology in the transportation field and use what fits our case from other countries' experience. Many questions are needed to be answered first. Who is in charge of the transportation system in Jordan? Is it the Ministry of Transportation with its limited resources and responsibilities? Or is it the Ministry of Interior with its lack of specialised persons in transportation or the municipality of Amman with its many heavy responsibilities? Do we have the data base that can tell us how the people travel, why they travel, and which route they take? Do we have a clear policy that defines and states the relationship between different modes of transportation?

2. The impacts of transportation on the environment.

In most urban areas of Jordan, air quality problems have increased significantly in the last decade. There are

two interrelated reasons for this: the change in residential land use patterns and the shift of ridership away from mass transportation. Growing public awareness of the ecological and environmental problems resulting from the above two reasons has not led to any practical solutions to the pollution problem through establishing and implementing a clear air-pollution control policy.

In my opinion, traffic accidents are not more serious than other transportation problems. As we are about to enter the 21st century, we still have no definite and clear policy on how to tackle three major issues related to transportation in various ways.

### 1. The impacts of transportation on energy usage

It is important to point out that the transport sector in Jordan consumes an average of 40 per cent of the total primary energy every year and the cost of imported energy is about \$400 million a year. The cost of imported energy is about nine per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) or approximately 15 per cent of the total imports in 1993.

Despite all of this, the transport sector is not discussing the reduction of energy consumption which in turn saves money. The following factors result in increasing energy consumption by the transport sector:

a. The increase in the number of private automobiles.

b. The lack of good, clean, more available and reliable public transportation.

c. The movements of people from the city centres to the suburbs, and.

d. Change in travel patterns.

### 2. The impacts of transportation on the environment.

In most urban areas of Jordan, air quality problems have increased significantly in the last decade. There are

environment). Concentrated and high density settings land use is better than dispersed and low density activities.

A study conducted in 1974 by the Real Estate Research Corporation in the U.S. compared the costs of low density urban sprawl with those of high density planned developments. The study concluded that the high density, planned development would (1) reduce total capital costs by 56 per cent, (2) reduce operation and maintenance costs by 11 per cent, (3) save 43 per cent in development land costs, 40 per cent in land costs for streets and 63 per cent in land costs for utilities, (4) reduce local government costs by 50 per cent, (5) reduce automobile air pollution by 30 per cent, reduce air pollution from space heating and other natural gas uses by 40 per cent, reduce water sedimentation by 30 per cent, and reduces storm water runoff by 20 per cent, and (6) reduce energy consumption by 44 per cent and water consumption by 35 per cent.

As a result, good land use planning can save money, improve environmental quality, and promote the efficient use of resources in developing communities.

As we face many serious problems in the transportation field, short term solutions must be developed through special technical committees. As far as the long-term solutions are concerned, the country must be patient and the chance and time must be given to the people who know the subject very well and who like to work quietly and seriously away from the media world. At last, and as some voices call for importing the experts to solve our transportation problems, it is fair to remember that the country has the people who have the ability and the will to serve their country without any return in mind.

The writer is a professor of transportation, planning and engineering at Mu'ta University. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

The president controls the situation. And I say this not just because I am part of the administration. Mark Urnov, head of the Presidential Analytical Centre, said,

## U.S. pressure on Iran worries Gulf states

By Yousef Azzeh

Reuter

DUBAI — Renewed United States pressure on Iran is viewed with some apprehension by oil-rich Arab neighbours across the Gulf, diplomats and officials said.

"We have to live with them," one Gulf official said of the Muslim fundamentalist rulers of Tehran, seen by Washington as sponsors of religious extremism and anti-Western sentiment.

The diplomats and officials said that even Saudi Arabia, Iran's traditional Arab rival across the Gulf, was unhappy with the renewed aggression in Washington's anti-Iran rhetoric.

"The main concern of Gulf Arabs is to maintain stability in this very sensitive and strategic region," one Arab diplomat said. "The latest American campaign does not help."

"The last thing they (Gulf Arabs) want is for Iran to feel isolated and under siege. This would not be conducive to stability in the Gulf," said another.

The concerns follow a Gulf tour last month by U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry when he spoke at length of potential threats from Iran and urged its neighbours to build up their defences in what many saw as a sales pitch for American arms.

U.S. officials were at the same denouncing what they said was a buildup of Iranian military muscle, including missiles, at the entrance of the Gulf, the route for about a quarter of the world's oil trade.

The concerns also coincide with a campaign by U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration to isolate Tehran economically after forcing the U.S. oil company Conoco to abandon a contract to develop an Iranian oilfield.

Iran also believes strongly that Washington was behind the torpedoing of a Caspian oil deal that

would have given Iran a stake in an Azerbaijan oil consortium.

The Clinton administration has also proposed a ban on U.S. imports of Iranian oil, which account for more than 10 per cent of Tehran's oil sales.

And it was pressing allies in Europe and Japan to curtail badly needed credits and loans to Iran.

"Many in the Gulf do not see a justification for the new U.S. campaign," one Gulf diplomat said.

"The Gulf states do not, for example, see any significant change in Iran's military posture in the Gulf," he added.

"It is reminiscent of the discredited policy of double containment," he said of the policy announced when the Clinton team took power two years ago which sought to contain both Iran and Iraq and was criticised as counter-productive.

U.S. allies in Europe, Japan and the Gulf saw double containment as misguided, the diplomats said.

They believed that while Iraq appeared unrepentant after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Iran's pragmatic President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was working hard for an accommodation with his neighbours and the rest of the world.

"They (Washington) stopped talking about double containment for a time but they seem to have come back to it with a vengeance, and that is worrying for many people," one Western diplomat said.

Mr. Rafsanjani, bogged down in economic problems, was struggling to maintain his policies against radicals within and outside parliament trying to drag Iran back to the militancy of the early years of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"There is a view in this

part of the world that prosperity is the only thing that would blunt the edge of Iranian militancy," the Western diplomat said.

"A hungry and aggressive Iran is the last thing Gulf Arabs want," he added.

## Yeltsin struggles to revitalise presidency

By Timothy Heritage

Reuter

MOSCOW — Four months after Boris Yeltsin sent Russian troops into Chechnya, he is still reeling from the blow the conflict has dealt to his presidency and his chances of winning a second term look slim.

Opinion polls show Mr. Yeltsin's popularity at rock bottom, mainly because of widespread revulsion at the violence used since Dec. 11 to crush Chechnya's independence drive.

Although the economy is looking up and Mr. Yeltsin has committed himself to reforms, critics question the firmness of his grip on power and fear hawks could persuade him to postpone presidential and parliamentary elections.

"One of the most notable victims of the war in Chechnya has become the authority of President Yeltsin, whose (approval) rating has fallen catastrophically," said Leonid Sedov of the Independent All-Russian Public Opinion Centre (VTSIOM).

"The conclusion from the results of our opinion polls is that holding presidential elections is an unlikely scenario of events," Mr. Sedov said after the centre's latest poll, published in the Sverdlova newspaper at the weekend.

Presidential aides firmly deny there are any plans to scrap the elections and have dropped broad hints in the last few days that Mr. Yeltsin will seek a second five-year term in the presidential voting, expected in June next year.

Opinion polls have proved unreliable in Russia in the past. But a trend in all of them is hard to ignore.

VTSIOM said approval of Mr. Yeltsin's actions was below three on a scale of 10.

The Ilogi current affairs television programme put

## Features

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1995

## For Israelis, appeal of 'separation' is its vagueness

By Barton Gellman



Palestinians working in Israel cross the Erez check point to return home on April 13, as Israel prohibited Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from entering Israel from Thursday April 13 midnight until Sunday April 16 midnight (AFP photo)

comes amid efforts to negotiate peace between the two peoples, and in many ways it reflects Israeli disenchantment with the results.

A grim-faced Mr. Rabin resurrected the term on national television the night a suicide bomber killed 23 bus passengers in Tel Aviv in October.

Separation "is a sign that the Israelis expect a bad peace rather than a good peace," said Samir Abdallah, chief economist for the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction. "It is a kind of drug to medicate the bad peace."

One of Mr. Rabin's closest advisers concurred. "As a long-term goal," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity, "it reflects some sort of despair."

Mr. Natsche's easy walk to Jerusalem, and its many variants, illustrate some of the debate on separation

the complexities. Israelis and Palestinians may dream of divorce, but their bonds remain intricate and deep.

It is not only that Mr. Natsche wants the work and his Israeli friend wants to give it to him — which, with large, accounts for 30 per cent of the income of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, not to mention politically valuable price stability in Israel's housing market.

Neither is it only that the so-called Green Line between Israel and the West Bank is indiscernible on the ground and difficult to imagine as an enforceable border.

The broader challenge, for Mr. Rabin, is that he has not come to grips with the political implications of the idea. Those include the location of the line — Mr. Rabin rejects return to pre-1967 boundaries but has

not yet proposed an alternative — and the nature of the "entity" on the other side. Environment Minister Yossi Sarid sparked a firestorm in parliament last month by predicting a Palestinian state.

Most difficult of all is the relationship between separation and the continued growth of West Bank settlements.

Even so, the mere idea of separation reflects a profound change in political psychology for many Israelis.

David Newman, an Israeli geographer, notes that after the 1967 war successive governments tried to "erase" the border between Israel and the West Bank territories, literally removing the line from official maps.

Separation, according to the Hebrew University political scientist, Yaron

Ezrahi, "is a very important idea against the colonial past of this country. It is an answer to the expansionists, commitment to borders and a clear definition where they start and where we end."

Mr. Rabin's principal aim, according to one official who is deeply involved in the subject, is a form of political jujitsu — an attempt to reverse the damage to ongoing peace talks caused by terror attacks.

Don't use terror as an excuse to give up on Palestinian self-rule. Mr. Rabin tells the angry electorate. Instead, let's get the Arabs out of our lives. "The main target," one senior official said, "is internal politics."

But the appeal of the slogan, Mr. Ezrahi said, requires vagueness. To various constituencies, he said, it means safety.

Many in the army and, reportedly, in the Shin Bet security service, suspect

Mr. Shahal of bureaucratic empire-building and harbours serious doubts about the effectiveness of all the high-technology patrols. Terrorist acts, even large ones, require only a modest number of trips across the border, and no one believes foot traffic can be brought to a halt.

The economic impact, on the other hand, would undoubtedly be dramatic.

Roughly half of the Gaza Strip labour force, and nearly one-third of the West Bank's, depend on employment in Israel, according to Mr. Abdullah and World Bank estimates. A closure that was 90 per cent effective might not stop political violence, an Israeli official acknowledged, but it could bring Gaza "maybe even to the starving point."

Although Israel's economy would also be hurt by

closing down the flow of cheap, semi-skilled labour, Mr. Abdullah, a Palestinian economist, said, "you can't compare the impact on your \$3 billion economy to the impact on their \$60 billion economy."

Erje Larsen, a Norwegian academic who coordinates U.N. projects in Palestinian territories, said existing forms of closure — used off and on by Mr. Rabin after terror attacks began a year ago — "cost Palestinians \$1 million a day in salaries and another \$1 million a day in indirect effects: so in 300 days it amounts to \$600 million, which is the combined amount pledged in donations by the international community."

Israel's answer is a proposal to build eight industrial zones along the borders to provide jobs for Palestinians who now work in Israel. The United States is trying to sweeten that somewhat improbable idea for capitalists by promising to make goods manufactured in the zones exempt from U.S. import tariffs. But in the best of circumstances it will take years for the zones to generate large numbers of jobs.

Until now Israel's government has treated separation as an internal matter, declining to negotiate its terms with Yasser Arafat's limited self-rule authority. The Palestinians, for their part, fear that it will come at their expense.

"What Rabin is practising," said Saeb Erekat, one of Arafat's chief negotiators, "is suffocation in the name of separation."

In one sense, according to one of Mr. Rabin's closest aides, Mr. Erekat has a point. Israel's government, he said, does not believe that Mr. Arafat is doing all he can to stop terror attacks. Mr. Rabin's use of closures, and his call for a broader separation, are intended "as a warning to the Palestinians."

"They," the official said, "will suffer from separation not us."

The Washington Post

## King, Queen return home

(Continued from page 1)

tenure. He has always been a friend to us."

The visit to the United States, the King said, "was successful in every sense of the word."

"Certain matters which caused us some worries were not justified because the current stage in the U.S. is characterised as a dispute between the U.S. administration and the legislative authority, and Jordan had nothing to do with it."

The United States fully supports Jordan, and therefore we expect the results to turn out in a manner that would meet our satisfaction in the near future because the United States fully realises its leading role and we expect Washington to take steps in favour of supporting and backing Jordan in all fields."

The King said his visit to Canada was positive and fruitful, adding that the Canadian government had pledged to support Jordan.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor were received at the airport by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Princess Taghreed, Crown Prince

## Meeting held on university row

(Continued from page 1)

people crowded around the area where Mr. Lawzi, Mr. Sour and other community leaders were seated, demanding to express their demands.

Tayseer Khushman, the father of one of the students beaten during the clashes, criticised university administration for not taking prompt action to end the fight.

Also he said that the university hospital would not allow him and his wife to enter the hospital to see their son, and told them to go to the police station instead.

He charged that some of the Circassians involved in the fight were not students. He said the hospital administration would not supply him with a medical report and they tried to file a complaint with the prosecutor general refused to accept our complaints."

The angry crowd then urged Senator Marwan Hmoud, a prominent leader from Salt, to express their demands.

Another student, Marwan Faour, speaking on behalf of

the youth in Salt, said: "We have demands and if you came to us as judges we accept, but if you came to us to hush things up we strongly refuse."

Speaker Sour said that he and his colleagues appreciated the bitterness that the people of Salt felt.

"We are aware of all what happened and we are going to tell His Majesty and all the officials and decision makers of all your demands," Mr. Sour said.

He urged them to wait for the results of the investigations.

Also Saturday Minister of Justice Hisham Tal announced that an investigation committee headed by the Sweileh prosecutor general was formed to investigate the incident, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh also formed a university committee to study "the phenomenon of campus violence and its motives and to come up with an objective and scientific theory to be presented to the university administration within a two-week period."

Fathi Shakaki told the Arabic daily Al Hayat: "The waiting lists for suicide attacks have thousands of names."

"Thousands of Palestinians are ready to carry out suicide attacks against the Israeli occupiers," Mr. Shakaki said.

"The candidates are pushing to sign up and when there is a delay in their turn — because we cannot meet their wishes every day — they get angry."

He said "nobody will succeed in disarming the mujahideen."

"If Yasser Arafat tries to hum us or disarm us it will give us more strength and extra reasons for escalating the resistance in the autonomous regions," Mr. Shakaki said.

Mr. Shakaki said the crackdown on militants was "the most serious" since the launch of Palestinian self-rule in May 1994, but stressed that Islamic Jihad and Hamas "will continue to resist armed conflict" between Palestinian groups.

"The attacks will continue as long as the Israeli occupation remains in force."

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"The attacks will continue as long as the Israeli occupation remains in force."

"She did everything early," her mother says. "She

was ahead at school, she started work early, she had a baby at 19."

Daughter of socialist parents, Ms. Voynet was born in 1958, the year General Charles de Gaulle founded France's Fifth Republic.

She worked as a night nurse to fund her medical studies and became active in the ecology movement at 18, campaigning against nuclear power. She was a co-founder of the French ecologist movement at 26.

Attractive, tough and fiercely independent, she recently told an interviewer on a five-line radio programme to "... off."

"She wanted to shine at my expense," she explained later.

As the Green's spokesman, Ms. Voynet ousted party president Antoine Waechter after the divided ecologist movement failed to win a single seat in a 1993 parliamentary election.

Accusing her of being too much of a politician and too far to the left, Mr. Waechter, a dour environmental purist, founded the rival independent ecology movement, whose motto is "neither right or left."

He was humiliatingly left off the presidential ballot

last week after falling 30 short of the required 500 endorsements from elected officials.

A third Green candidate, former environment minister Brice Lalonde, dropped out after coming under strong pressure from Ms. Voynet not to split the ecologist vote and failing to win more than one per cent in opinion polls.

In a country less bothered about the environment than its north European neighbours, surveys credit Ms. Voynet with below three per cent of the vote.

That is a far cry from the 14 per cent which two rival ecologist lists polled in regional elections in 1992, in what turned out to be a protest against the decaying Socialist Party rather than the emergence of a new political force.

But Ms. Voynet says she is not discouraged, arguing that neither of the candidates who reach the decisive May 7 run-off can afford to ignore the ecologist vote.

"Who are the main candidates? Those who win many votes or those who bring new ideas?" she asked.

## Jordan welcomes U.N. offer

(Continued from page 1)

holding talks on the issue with Arab foreign ministers participating in the debate over the treaty in New York and with foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement, who will meet in Bandung, Indonesia, next month.

The United States is pushing for an indefinite renewal of the treaty as Third World countries are expected to table resolutions demanding definite extension.

Jordan has said that its decision on the treaty will be in line with the decisions of the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Karabiti said Jordan has not yet decided on how it will vote on the treaty, on which the U.N. will vote on May 25. He said he will be

## Iraq to reject U.N. plan

(Continued from page 1)

the council said. The council said the draft would be referred to parliament. No time was set for a parliament meeting.

Within hours of the statement, the government said it was increasing the monthly quota of flour

## PNA reaffirms pledge

(Continued from page 1)

and Israel," he said.

The groups could participate in planned Palestinian elections and decision-making, but were compelled by law to respect the peace deal with Israel, Mr. Abdul Rahim said.

"National dialogue should be based on respecting the PLO-Israel accord," he said.

In Jerusalem Islamic Jihad released a videotape showing an armed guerrilla it said was Khaled Khatib, who blew himself up in one of last Sunday's attacks on a bus.

The guerrilla, who posed with an assault rifle, then appeared dressed as an Israeli combat soldier, urged youths to follow his example of martyrdom and jihad.

"Martyrdom is the noblest desire," he said. "The heaven of Islam awaits me."

Mr. Abdul Rahim said Mr. Arafat rejected claims by Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups that military attacks against Israeli targets would strengthen his negotiating position with Israel.

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## Nabulsi: Dinar stability tops any other priority

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi has strongly defended high interest rates on the dinar and rejected suggestions that the currency be appreciated as an alternative to maintain its stability.

The CBJ governor said it was not feasible to appreciate the dinar at this point in time and pointed out that such a move would also adversely affect Jordan's exports of goods and services.

It was the first comment by Dr. Nabulsi on the subject amid complaints by commercial bankers and stock market dealers that high interest rates were posing liquidity problems in the market.

The bankers also suggest that the CBJ could appreciate the dinar instead of hiking interest rates to maintain the stability of the currency and its relative attraction over the American dollars for local depositors.

One of the main but indirect tools used by the CBJ to maintain the two-to-two-and-a-half per cent interest rate edge over the American dollar is short- and medium-term certificates of deposits (CDs) with yields of up to 9.5 per cent.

The CBJ started issuing CDs by auction when it found that the interest rates on the American dollar was going up, attracting local depositors to convert their dinar holdings into the greenback, a prospect that is alarming to any central monetary authority.

Bankers and stock market

dealers say that investors were being lured to the CBJ-issued CDs, and, by extension, commercial banks also have to raise the yields they offer on dinar deposits to keep up with the increase.

Overnight inter-banking rates have also gone up dramatically since the last quarter of 1994.

Dr. Nabulsi, in an interview with the Jordan Times, conceded that there were liquidity problems in the market but said that the Central Bank, in its mandated task to defend the stability of the dinar, had little choice in the matter.

"We don't find (raising interest rates) amusing or entertaining for us," he said.

"We know that interest rates have an adverse effect, but we have come to the conclusion that the adverse effect that we are facing now are way below their weight... when compared to the effects that could come if the interest rates were low."

Appreciation of the dinar is an option to maintain the edge of the currency, but Jordan cannot afford to do that at a time when the Kingdom is seeking export-led economic growth, Dr. Nabulsi said.

"We cannot appreciate the dinar," he said. "Our main concern has always been the kind of stability of the dinar as we see today. We cannot appreciate the dinar at this time definitely, neither in the context of the present reserves assets we have nor in the context of our general economic and trade policies."

"We would like our goods and services to be competitive in outside markets," Dr. Nabulsi said. "There is no way to keep them competitive except by applying a policy whereby we have not only a stable exchange rate but also a flexible exchange rate which could be adjusted in accordance with our balance of payments situation."

"It is as simple as that," added Dr. Nabulsi.

"We cannot relax our mission, our duty, which has been set out in the law for the Central Bank... which requires the CBJ to apply a policy that would continue to protect the value of the currency against inflation and against unwarranted fluctuation..."

"It is our duty that when we find that the only way to do this is to raise interest rates, we raise interest

rates," he said.

The governor, obviously with an eye on some bankers who have been unusually highly critical of the CBJ-engineered hike in interest rates since last year, said it was not as if the Central Bank was raising interest rates on a whim or fancy.

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## Japan wants yen as key world currency, sees U.S. economic power in decline

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan said Friday it would work with central banks around the world, particularly in Asia, to boost the yen as a key international currency as U.S. economic influence declined.

Takafumi Kaneko, a deputy director of Japan's Economic Planning Agency, said the United States appeared no longer capable of maintaining the dollar as a stable world currency.

"It's becoming difficult for the USA to discharge the same responsibility as it did in the past with different circumstances," Mr. Kaneko said Friday at a briefing on the government's economic package to counter the surging yen.

"The economic power of the USA is on the decline and that of Japan, in relative terms, is increasing," he said, adding that Japan wanted the yen to become a key world currency.

Mr. Kaneko said the U.S. government has domestic concerns that override its responsibilities to support the dollar internationally. He was apparently referring to Washington's perceived desire to let the dollar fall as a way of making U.S. exports cheaper overseas.

Japan's new initiative on the yen, including business transactions between third countries in yen, is a key element of the economic measures announced on Friday, Mr. Kaneko said.

"We will work toward the internationalisation of the yen," he said.

It is as simple as that," added Dr. Nabulsi.

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"It is our duty that when we find that the only way to do this is to raise interest rates, we raise interest

The yen has appreciated 16 per cent against the dollar since the beginning of the year, hitting a record high of around 80 last week, making Japanese exports more expensive and threatening Japan's fragile economic recovery.

The yen's movement against the Malaysian ringgit was also seen in a range similar to the linked currencies.

The appreciation of the yen could lead to some deterioration of the bilateral and, hence, overall trade balances in the Asian countries surveyed, with Indonesia and Thailand leading the group as a result of their relatively high overall trade dependence on Japan," Salomon Brothers said.

Indonesia, primarily because of its oil exports, was the only one among the nine Asian economies surveyed by Salomon Brothers which had an overall bilateral surplus with Japan.

"Hence, the appreciation of the yen may well decrease the portion of the surplus which does not reflect U.S. dollar-priced goods, such as oil," it said.

Indonesia, however, was a special case, because the servicing of its large yen-denominated foreign debt could impact its current account, Salomon Brothers said.

"I believe it is now opportune for the United States to complement these actions by raising its short-term interest rates," the IMF head said.

"This would contribute to a strengthening of the dollar, which would be appropriate given its role as the key international currency. It would also help contain the domestic inflationary pressures that will result from a weak dollar," he added.

Meanwhile, Indonesia and Thailand are expected to be worst hit by the steep appreciation of the yen against the dollar, according to a study of nine Asian economies.

The study was conducted by American investment house Salomon Brothers.

It warned that a further deterioration of trade or current account balances of the two countries caused by the rise of the yen "could have wider implications in terms of the potential knock-on effects on short term capital flows and interest rates."

The yen appreciated by 14.5 per cent against the Indonesian rupiah and 12 per cent against the Thai baht between January and March, the period covered by the study.

The Japanese currency has moved fairly uniformly against currencies closely linked to the U.S. dollar,

such as the Thai and Indonesian currencies, as well as the Hong Kong dollar and China's renminbi.

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## APEC finance ministers haunted by currencies

SANUR, Indonesia (R) — Asia-Pacific finance ministers gathered in Bali Saturday to discuss strategies to handle new realities of the world's money markets — from Mexico's dramatic collapse to capital movement, effect of exchange rate movement on trade and investment and how to mobilise resources for infrastructure financing.

Bankers at a three-hour meeting at a hotel in the tourist sprawl of Kuta came out with a set of recommendations which, while no made public, covered removing obstacles to the flow of capital among members economies.

"We discussed capital flow to ensure sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region," Pridiathorn Devakula, president of the Export-Import Bank of Thailand, said during the meeting.

The ministers are due to start their discussions Sunday after a formal opening by Indonesia Vice-President Try Sutrisno.

Beyond Japanese-U.S. trade and currency friction, an obvious issue is this year's crisis in Mexico, another member economy of the fledgling APEC forum. Financiers said it provided a useful lesson but would not preoccupy the meeting.

"The Mexican crisis was a device which helped us in this meeting to focus on some of the fundamental improvements which all our economies needs to make including the U.S. economy by the way which is heavily dependent on the input of foreign capital which is used to finance very large current account deficit," Goldman Sachs International Vice-Chairman Robert Hormats said.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 16, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) It's important you are most conventional today even though inward pleasure is great to do otherwise, be happy.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You are apt to upset the applecart today since you are discontent, but remain calm and know that you are doing fine.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Be careful not to get into any new interests today which do not appeal to you and which another may try to pressure you into.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Use care in any public activities and keep out of trouble today. This is a good day to ask a bigwig for favours.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Any risks you take today could bring trouble, so use much care. Avoid that new acquaintance whose ideas are radically different.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You have made promises which should be kept today without fail. Don't ring up any unpredictable subjects with a good friend.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Although you like to carefully analyse a matter before reaching a decision, a partner might try to hasten you into it.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Make this a day of rest do you can restore your energies and be ready for a busy week ahead. You can learn a great deal now.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You want to lambast your mate for some fancied wrong, and this would not be more kind and tactful instead.

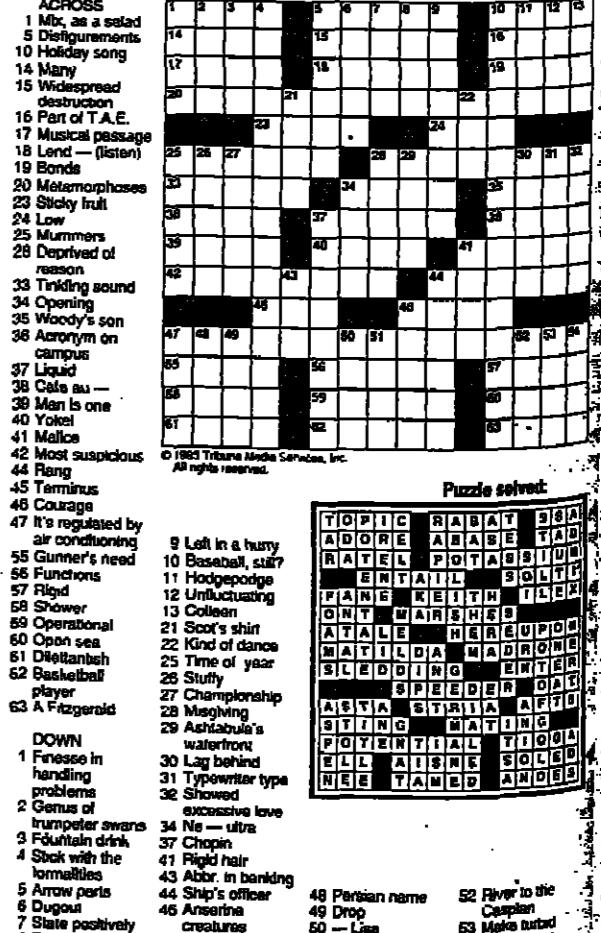
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Don't try to force your views on those who dwell with you or a bad quarrel result and then could be bad results.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Make today a quiet sensible one and don't go running around, hither and yon. Avoid a possible accident while on the highway today.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Plan how you can get your money matters in better shape, and don't make any investments or spend beyond your ken.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

### THE Daily Crossword



## Business &amp; Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1995

Business  
Country  
GreatA review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic pressFlow of  
financial  
accounts  
continues

\*\* NET PROFIT posted by the Industrial Development Bank dropped from JD 3.2 million at the end of 1993 to JD 2.2 million at the end of 1994. The decline was also evident in the number and volume of loans extended by the bank as 147 loans amounting to JD 29.7 million were approved last year compared to 170 loans amounting to JD 34.7 million in 1993. The bank's chairman attributed the drop to the political developments on one hand and the large volume of capital that flowed in setting up new companies on the other hand. Profit from share trading at the Amman Financial Market fell by JD 554,000 and commission earnings from brokerage of share deals declined by JD 198,000. The participation in building a school, setting up a new branch for the bank and other humanitarian contributions resulted in reducing net profit by another JD 210,000. The bank invested JD 1.2 million in five projects last year compared to JD 300,000 of investments in 1993. The board of directors is recommending the distribution of JD 761,250 in dividends at a rate of 12 per cent (Al Dousour).

\*\* THE MACHINERY Equipment Renting and Maintenance Company posted a loss last year as a result of low construction activity and limited availability of projects. The company sought to diversify its investments and shifted to the Amman Financial Market but the move was unsuccessful as the stock exchange went into a continuous retreat. Despite the gloomy picture, the company's annual report showed a high liquidity of nearly JD 600,000 or so per cent of the company's capital. According to the report, the company earned JD 380,000 from renting equipment, increased its portfolio of share investments to JD 117,000 and spent JD 112,000 on purchasing 6,631 square metres of land from the Industrial Estates Corporation, Sabah, to set up a maintenance workshop. In 1994, the company began to provide repair and maintenance services to small road-rollers owned by the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and is planning to widen this service to other equipment for the ministry. The company also plans to use its workshop to provide repair and maintenance services to all equipment of government institutions (Al Aswaq).

\*\* ACCORDING TO the annual report of the Government Tenders Department, the volume of central tenders in 1994 amounted to JD 116,445,898 awarded through 171 tenders (Al Ra'i).

\*\* THE GENERAL ENGINEERING Industries (GEI), a new public shareholding company registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Feb. 28, 1995 with a capital of JD 5 million, is floating 1,811,750 shares for public subscription at JD 1 per cent value. The company aims at setting up a foundry for casting of auto parts and other products such as central heating radiators. GEI will also establish an electronic facility for the production of telephones, exchanges, PCs and components related to such products. Key founders of the GEI who have covered JD 3.19 million of the capital are: Hassan Hamdi Mango (JD 400,000), Omar Ibrahim Mango (JD 300,000), Adnan Ibrahim Mango (JD 200,000), Anisah Adnan Mango (JD 200,000), the Housing Bank (JD 200,000), Al Hamdi Mango (JD 200,000), Ibrahim, Mo'taz, Halimeh, Nadia, Khalid and Mariana Omar Mango (JD 100,000) each and Jordan Gulf Bank (JD 100,000). Closing date for subscription is May 4, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

## Clinton's pay \$55,313 in federal income taxes

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary paid \$55,313 in 1994 federal income taxes on an adjusted gross income of \$263,900 and were eligible for a refund of \$14,418, their tax return showed Friday.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry used the release of the Clinton's form 1040 to try to make a political point — that the president's tax policies that fall more heavily on the rich are fairer than Republican tax proposals.

"It's clear from (the Clinton's tax return) that they would be enormous beneficiaries of tax cuts as proposed by the Republican majority in Congress... he (the president) thinks that's unfair and that tax relief ought to be targeted on middle-income Americans," Mr. McCurry said.

The Clintons return, released by the White House three days prior to the federal income tax filing deadline, which this year falls on April 17, showed they were over-withheld by \$14,418 and elected to apply \$7,500 of their refund to taxes on this year's income.

The bulk of their income came from the president's salary of \$171,500 and royalties of \$259,013 from "Earth in the Balance," his best-selling book on environmental policy.

## P.O. sets up unit in Jebel Ali

DUBAI (R) — British shipping and construction group the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. (P.O.) has said it was setting up a Gulf warehousing and distribution operation at Dubai's Jebel Ali free zone

The White House said \$12,000 of the unearned income came from the Henry G. Freeman pension fund, which under a 1912 will bequeaths a sum of money each year to whomever is the spouse of the president.

Mrs. Clinton intends to donate the money to charity, the White House said. The Clinton's tax return showed charitable contributions of \$30,125 in 1994, their largest write-off. It was followed by \$10,000 in tax preparation and legal fees.

Mr. McCurry said the

## Arab Gulf states to float \$296 million in new projects

ABU DHABI (APF) — Arab Gulf states have identified new projects worth around \$296 million to be carried out by the private sector as part of reforms to offset weak oil prices, officials have said.

Officials and businessmen from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will discuss the projects in Oman on April 17, according to Mahmoud Al Jarwati, director of the Muscat stock exchange.

The projects to be presented at the meeting are part of efforts to encourage the private sector to set up industrial ventures," he told AFP by telephone from Muscat. "Some of them could be carried out in Oman and the others in the remaining members of the GCC."

The projects cover chemicals, plastics, metals, engineering and pharmaceutical industries and have been determined feasible by the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC).

"Such projects, if carried out, could provide more than 900 new job opportunities," said GOIC, which advises on GCC industrial policies.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar,

UAE and Jordan — have

been hit hard by weak oil prices, with their income

plunging to an average of \$70 billion a year from above \$180 billion in 1981.

Mr. Low said the new company would operate as an autonomous unit. "It will become as totally independent company... it will be its own profit centre," he said.

The head of P.O. Gulf Logistics, Roger Surrall, said the company had leased two warehouses at the Jebel Ali free zone in United Arab Emirates' member Dubai. "They are not big com-

pared to the warehouses in Europe, but we have to learn to crawl here before we can walk," Mr. Surrall said.

He said the company was taking advantage of Dubai's location between Europe and the Far East and its proximity to India. "We are also taking advantage of the fact that P.O. is already in containers and it has a huge customer network."

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 15/04/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALVE TRADED JD	PREV. CLEARING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PIC	240	46170	191.750	192.750
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	10500	51144	4.890	4.820
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	1750	8207	4.750	4.670
BANK OF JORDAN	73	2569	3.580	3.600
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	51650	59305	1.900	1.840
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	850	2328	2.780	2.760
THE HOUSING BANK	63000	500146	7.580	7.960
JORDAN KUWAITI BANK	5048	14682	2.920	2.930
JORDAN GULF BANK	26350	37251	1.370	1.430
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL & FINANCE BANK	5367	20653	3.820	3.860
BRITISH LOCAL SAVINGS & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	300	1820	3.970	4.030
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	85850	106475	1.230	1.270
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	60450	112437	1.770	1.860
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	312499	989598	INDEX NUMBER: 167.85 CHANGE : +0.34%	
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	7270	20467	INDEX NUMBER: 136.35 CHANGE : +0.10%	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	14823	24477	1.650	1.650
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	40950	64514	1.550	1.570
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	80804	581776	7.200	7.200
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	23	1042	1.040	1.050
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	230	30293	1.100	1.100
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	4250	30252	7.000	7.050
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	300	2120	2.960	3.110
ARAB PORTOLIO SECURITIES	1200	4898	2.260	2.340
ARAB PORTOLIO SECURITIES	750	1948	1.660	1.660
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	1850	1206	1.250	1.250
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	330	3426	10.250	10.400
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMORDO HOTELS	95764	264516	2.730	2.760
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	750	2520	3.350	3.360
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	250	313	1.250	1.250
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	250521	1004278	INDEX NUMBER: 142.88 CHANGE : +1.07%	
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	15221	46724	3.080	3.070
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	235	927	1.200	1.200
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	3209	30202	9.380	9.400
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1791	6461	3.600	3.610
AL JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	1000	8350	8.200	9.400
AL JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	2464	10125	4.400	4.400
JORDAN DAIRY	750	1815	2.450	2.500
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	450	1215	2.700	2.700
SPINNING & WEAVING	17250	46003	2.670	2.670
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1650	13191	7.950	8.000
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	91000	8614	1.100	1.100
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	600	4705	7.250	7.250
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	40814	27873	1.670	1.680
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	79250	127257	1.570	1.600
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	250	665	2.530	2.660
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	1750	2095	1.190	1.200
ARABIC CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	200	850	4.350	4.350
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO	500	2215	4.350	4.350
MATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1650	5843	1.670	1.700
MATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	11600	19604	1.610	1.650
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARMA. & CHEMICALS	8200	19493	2.260	2.370
EMARIN INVESTMENT	1000	122	1.100	1.100
ARABIC INDUSTRIES	725	25681	3.460	3.540
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6550	13265	1.990	2.020
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	327184	607099	INDEX NUMBER: 121.88 CHANGE : +0.84%	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	897474	2621442	INDEX NUMBER: 147.17 CHANGE : +0.90%	
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		330731		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		481711		

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## Agassi, Courier advance to Japan Open final

TOKYO (Agencies) — Andre Agassi pounded out a 7-5, 6-2 victory over Wayne Ferreira in the Japan Open on Saturday, advancing to the finals of his first tournament since gaining the world No. 1 ranking.

Agassi said, however, that because of a lower back strain that has been bothering him since Davis Cup preparation last month, he would pull out of next week's tournament in Hong Kong, rest and get treatment for a couple of weeks.

In Sunday's final, Agassi will face No. 4 seed Jim Courier, who won 6-4, 7-5 against fellow American Michael Chang, the second seed. Courier broke Chang's serve in the third game of the first set and the 11th game of the second, when he had help from a double fault by Chang at 30-30.

Courier said he didn't expect to gain any points Sunday from Agassi's back problems.

"For Andre to be in this tournament indicates to me that his back is really not too bad," he said.

Neither Agassi nor strong-serving No. 3 seed Ferreira, from South Africa, had a break point until the 11th game, when Agassi created one with a forehand serve return winner. Ferreira then netted a backhand volley and Agassi served out the set.

Agassi broke again in the second set's first game after Ferreira had taken a 40-15 lead on three aces. At 40-30, Ferreira appeared to slip chasing along the baseline for an Agassi shot and sent a backhand long. He shook his foot and then served two double faults, giving Agassi the game.

Agassi broke again in the fifth game, and won in slightly more than an hour before about 7,000 spectators.

"I feel like I'm hitting the ball well," Agassi said, but added that because of his back, his doctor, coach and manager "have been concerned with me just finishing this week."

"I'll come out here and finish tomorrow, but I can't play next week at all," he said.

Of his back, Agassi said: "The more fatigued it gets, the more you play on it, the worse it gets, and it can turn into something that could be chronic. I've got to take care of it."

He said he hoped to be back in action for a tournament in Atlanta from May 1-7.

Of his 11-game service break against Ferreira, he said: "I always felt like I was on the verge of breaking him and I was holding pretty easy. ... it's tougher to hold against him the longer that you go because I start getting a better read for where you're serving well that day and my confidence picks up the longer the match goes on."

Ferreira, who now has lost five straight matches to Agassi, said his opponent was serving better than it their past battles. Agassi put in 72 per cent of his first serves to 56 per cent for Ferreira.

In the second set's first game, "I slipped and actually hurt my foot. That affected me at least that game. But after I sat down at the



Michael Chang

changeover and got up, gradually it got better."

Courier, who has fallen from No. 1 in the world rankings in late 1993 to 15th now, was pleased with his victory over No. 6 Chang.

"It was a big win for me, getting over the hump beating a top player in a big match. I haven't done it in a while so it feels very good," he said.

Hack was attacking the net often against Courier, and said, "I think I was winning a good percentage at the net. There were a number of points I should have won. I think it's just becoming more and more a part of my game."

Chang, known as a tenacious baseline retriever, said he wanted to take the game to his opponents more so he didn't depend so much on how well they were playing.

### TENNIS ROUNDUP

Women's No. 2 seed Amy Frazier of the United States beat qualifier Tang Min of Hong Kong 6-3, 6-3 and advanced to Sunday's final against No. 1 seed Kimiko Date of Japan, who is seeking her fourth straight Japan Open title.

Date beat Frazier 7-5, 6-0 in last year's final. Date beat compatriot Nana Miyagi in two quick sets Friday to reach the final.

Tang, a native of China, had reached the semifinals by coming from behind to beat two Japanese seeds.

"She is very hard to play. It's hard to read where her shots are going," said Frazier. "I've played Kimiko before so I'll know what to expect."

In an all-Japanese women's doubles final, 19-year-olds Mito Saeki and Yuka Yoshida upset No. 2 seeds Kyoko Nagatsuka and Ai Sugiyama 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) after

falling behind 5-2 in the final set.

#### Hack to play Graf in semis

In Houston, defending champion Sabine Hack of Germany faltered briefly in the second set before charging past erratic Nino Louarsabishvili of Georgia 6-1, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Houston women's tennis championships on Friday night.

Hack, seeded fifth, will meet No. 1 ranked Steffi Graf of Germany in the semifinals.

"If I have a real great day and she (Graf) has a bad day, anything is possible," Hack said. "She serves really well and moves incredibly well. My best chance against her is on clay."

Hack had little trouble getting past 18-year-old Louarsabishvili, who

beat her easier but the ball was swirling in the wind," Hack said. "I wasn't getting the ball deep, so she could attack the next ball."

Louarsabishvili upset third-seeded Iva Majoli but Hack wouldn't allow another comeback.

"I think I am more consistent and move better," Hack said. "She hit a lot of good shots but she misses some too. She needs to be more consistent."

Asa Carlsson of Sweden will meet Meike Babel of Germany in the other semifinals match. Carlsson defeated Joannette Kruger of South Africa 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) and Babel beat seventh-seeded Sandra Cecchini 6-4, 6-3.

#### Kafelnikov faces Muster

In Barcelona, Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, ranked No. 5 in the world, defeated Thierry Champion of France in two straight sets Friday to earn a place in the semifinals of the \$900,000 Conde de Godo ATP tennis tournament.

Kafelnikov won the match 6-4, 6-3. He is the tournament's highest remaining seed after No. 1 seed, American Pete Sampras and No. 2, Sergi Bruguera of Spain, were both eliminated in their opening rounds.

In the semifinals, the Russian will face No. 9 seed, Austrian Thomas Muster who despite going down in the first set 6-3 against Spaniard Carlos Costa, recovered to win the match in the following two sets, 3-6, 7-5.

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## Jordan lose to Lebanon in Davis Cup

By Aleen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Davis Cup team suffered another defeat Friday when they lost 2-1 to Lebanon in their Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 playoff currently underway in Dubai.

The Jordanian team has now lost its chance of moving to Group 2 next year as only the top team in the five-nation group will be promoted to the senior division of the zonals.

Jordan had lost its opening first two ties against Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh 3-0. They will next play the UAE and Pacific Oceania.

Faris Azzouni secured the only win for Jordan when he beat Lebanon's Tawfiq Zahlan 6-3, 7-6. Imad Abu Hamda had a tough match and put up a big fight before losing to Ibrahim Khalil 7-6 (7-3), 3-6.

Lebanon's Karim Khoury and Hussein Badreddine then defeated Abu Hamda and Khaled Hussein in the doubles 6-2, 7-6 (7-2).

Jordan's national team coach Yousef Al Oreibi, who has surprisingly not accompanied the team, told the Jordan

Times that he was very surprised by the team's results as players and officials had expected the team to do better.

"I suppose the extremely hot and humid weather has greatly affected the players' performance. They have been playing long matches on a daily basis. In addition I heard that Imad (Abu Hamda) had a bad cold which has undoubtedly affected his form," Oreibi commented.

The round robin competition is being played on a daily two singles and one doubles match format over five days with only the top team in the group being promoted to Group 2 whose winner is promoted to Group 1 before joining the prestigious World Group which includes teams such as the United States, Germany, and others.

The Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 tournament in Dubai is one of the largest in Davis Cup competition as 13 teams will be playing 108 matches at one single venue. Singapore still lead Group A which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria, Oman, Kazakhstan and Brunei.

In group B matches, Bahrain defeated Kuwait 2-1, Singapore beat Brunei 3-0 and Syria defeated Kazakhstan 3-0.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH

#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦K1053 ♣A108784 ♠AQ6

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦A107 ♣Q ♠A75 ♠AKJ98

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North  
1 ♠ Dbl Pass 1 ♠  
Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦J75 ♣Q8643 ♠Q2 ♠AQ2

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦AQ7 ♠KJ85 ♣Q7532 ♠10

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦Void ♠AQ7632 ♠A1086 ♠Q9

What is your opening bid after partner and right-hand opponent pass?

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**CONCORD "2"**  
Jean-Claude Van Damme  
**STREET FIGHTER**  
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## Amman prepares to host 8th regional bridge championship

Omar Sharif, world bridge officials to attend

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The capital is set to become the bridge centre of the region when the 8th Bridge Federation of Africa, Asia and the Middle East (BFAAME) championship opens here on April 22.

Over 200 bridge players and officials representing 15 countries will come together for the championship, where the top two teams will qualify to play in the World Bridge Championship scheduled to be held in Beijing in September.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, chief organiser and co-chairman of the organising committee, Ghassan Ghaneem, said the preparations for the event were on course and that organisers were excited about holding such a regional championship in the Kingdom for the first time.

"We are very encouraged. I am sure this tournament will be a great success for the Jordan Bridge Association (JBA) and its sub-committees, whose members are working very hard to make it a beautiful event," Mr. Ghaneem added.

The competition, held under the patronage of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, will be attended by top bridge officials and players from around the world, including celebrity Omar Sharif, who will be commenting and might take part in some exhibition matches.

Also attending will be the President of the World Bridge Federation Jose Damiani and Vice-President Mazar Jaffri.

in addition to the President of the BFAAME P.C. Goenka and Arab Bridge Federation Chairman Sadeq Radwan.

The higher committee of the championship is headed by JBA honorary president, Mrs. Nawzat Shaker, and includes Senator Zeid Rifai, as vice president, Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat and Minister of Tourism Abdullah Al Khatib.

The competition will be held at the Forte Grand Hotel and will end on May 3.

The first two days are reserved for the open pairs competition. The qualification rounds for the open and ladies teams will take a week to complete with the final three days reserved for the semifinals and final.

Participants in the open teams include players from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Reunion, Mauritius, Russia, Kenya and Jordan.

Eight teams will contest the ladies' trophy. They are: Egypt, South Africa, Reunion, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Jordan.

Bridge, the internationally popular card game was first officially introduced in Jordan in 1979 and has been steadily drawing a large number of players and fans in the Kingdom — a fact that led the World Bridge Federation (WBF) and the BFAAME council to accept Jordan's bid to host the championship following WBF Vice-President Mazar Jaffri's visit to Jordan in January 1994.

During the visit, Mr. Jaffri examined facilities and arrangements and signed an agreement with the Jordan Bridge Association to host the championship.

Klinsmann gives Tottenham a draw

LONDON (AP) — Jürgen Klinsmann nailed a spectacular 25-metre (yard) free kick with three minutes to play Friday to give Tottenham to a 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace in the English Premier League.

The German striker hit a perfectly-placed drive: curling the ball over and to the right of the Palace's defensive wall and back toward the net to deflect off the underside of the crossbar and in. It was his 27th goal of the season.

Klinsmann, subject of transfer rumours over the past week, was reticent to talk about his future with Tottenham, despite a contract that extends through next season. German team Bayern Munich is considered a leading contender for the services of the striker, who is reported to want out if Tottenham doesn't qualify for next season's UEFA Cup.

Klinsmann's goal matched Chris Armstrong's 20-metre (yard) strike four minutes before halftime that gave Palace the lead.

The result satisfied neither team. Palace, which lost to Manchester United in Football Association Cup semifinal replay on Wednesday, remained in the Premier League relegation zone, and seventh-place Tottenham failed to make up substantial ground in its UEFA Cup bid.

Elsewhere, two other teams fighting relegation scored stunning upsets.

Nigerian international Daniel Amokachi scored in the 22nd and 55th minutes to lift F.A. Cup finalist Everton out of the relegation zone with a 2-0 home victory over fourth-place Newcastle.

Amokachi also netted twice in Everton's 4-1 F.A. Cup semifinal win over Tottenham last Sunday.

## FIBA considers ways to enliven championship

ZARAGOZA (AP) — What to do about dull, low-scoring games in the European final four?

Two abysmal semifinal games and a final that wasn't exactly a classic made this year's championship tournament for European clubs something of a let-down. Shooting percentages were low and there was too much bumbling-and-grinding in the paint.

"We had a full house, all the eyes of Europe were on us," Boris Stankovic, who has run world basketball's governing body FIBA for almost two decades, said after the semifinals. "They didn't see very much. We need a show, a game that's relatively high-scoring."

In Tuesday's semis, won 62-49 by Real Madrid over Limoges and 58-52 by Olympiakos over Panathinaikos, overall shooting percentages hovered around an embarrassing 30 per cent. Tight defenses and nerves seemed to overwhelm even good shooters.

"People come to see a game and not a wrestling match," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "This happens in the NBA sometimes."

often in important games where the play is slower and the shooting percentages are lower."

Thursday's championship game, a 73-61 victory for Real Madrid over Olympiakos, was a better show. The game was quick-paced and generally well-played, but shooting was at best average — in the 40-percent range — and the champion won with fewer than 75 points for the sixth straight year.

Last year, the NBA responded to the low-scoring, heavy-contact championship series between the Houston Rockets and New York Knicks by changing the rules and opening up the game. Faced with the same problem, Stankovic is thinking about some changes of his own, such as doing away with the single-elimination format used in the American collegiate version of the final four. "I think we need a playoff system so it doesn't all come down to one game," Stankovic said. "I'm quite sure the play would improve. It's very seldom we have a good game in the final four — nobody wants to take risks."

Stankovic also offered a rare public criticism of the officiating. "The officiating was objective in those two games (the semifinals), but I disagree with the interpretation," he said. "We have rules against this physical play that should be enforced."

Fujimoto extends Kenya's rally lead

NAIROBI (R) — Yoshio Fujimoto survived an adventurous day to extend his lead and spearhead a Japanese assault in the second leg of Kenya's Safari Rally on Friday.

Fujimoto, driving a Toyota, ended the second day 16 minutes 47 seconds ahead of fellow-countryman Kenjiro Shinozuka in a Mitsubishi.

A third Japanese, Hideaki Miyoshi, in a Subaru was in fourth place behind defending champion Ian Duncan of

Kenya in another Toyota. Fujimoto, who has never previously led a top rally, said his rear tyres overheated, he had been slowed down by cows along the route, then a bus had brushed against his Toyota.

But he said the most bizarre event of the day was when his windscreen slipped because two mounting rubbers wore away and caused a crack in the centre of the screen.

British Richard Burns, in a Subaru, was time-barred mid-way through the leg.

"Being first on the road

has its disadvantages. I was slowed down by several herds of cows along the road — which is why Shinozuka has made up some time on me," Fujimoto said but added he was confident of holding off his Mitsubishi rival.

Shinozuka said he had lost two minutes with suspension problems and added: "I am trying to get the lead so I can be out of dust."

British Richard Burns, in a Subaru, was time-barred mid-way through the leg.

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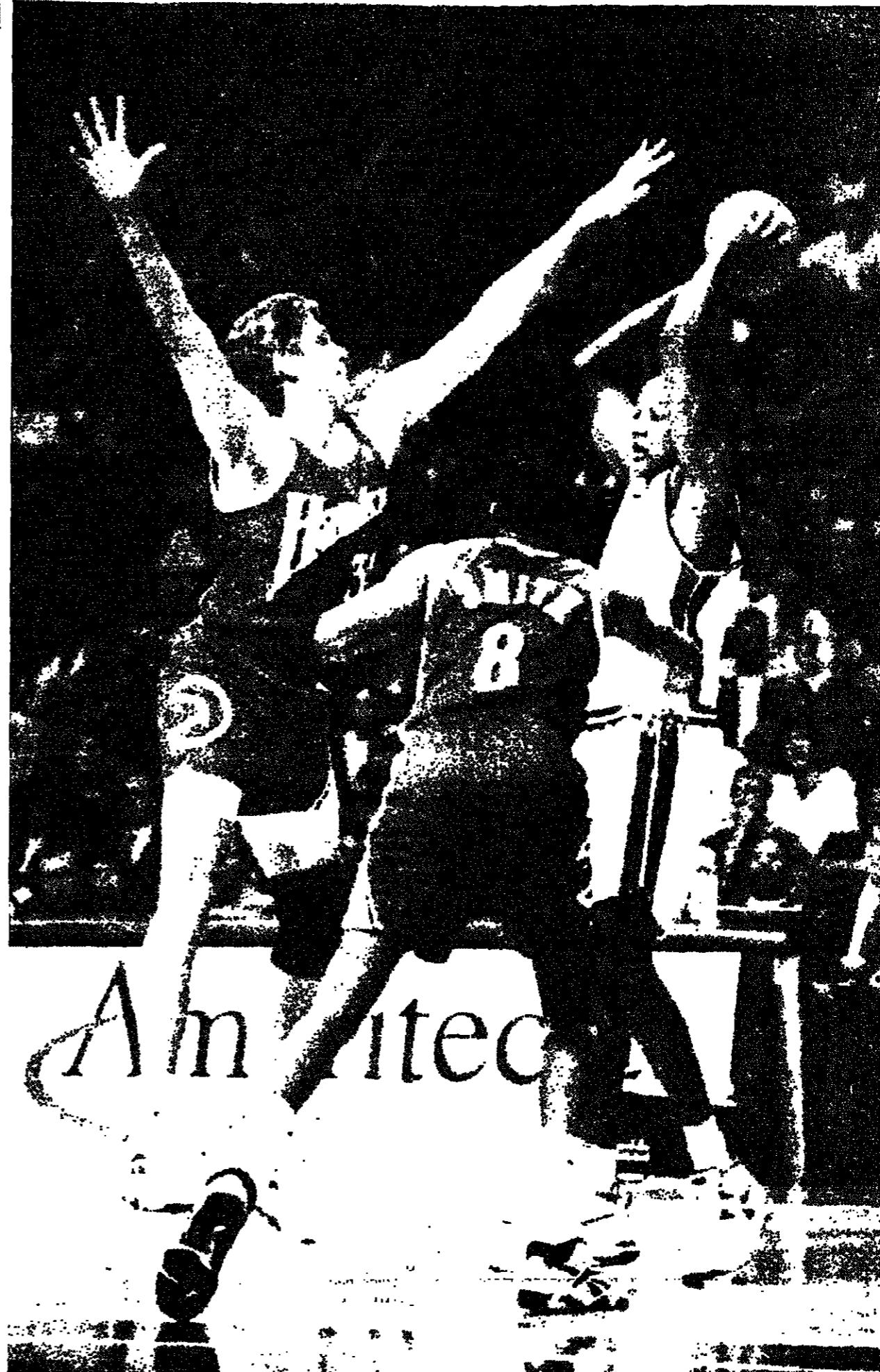
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Atlanta Hawks' Jon Koncak (left) and teammate Steve Smith #8 contain Detroit Pistons' Terry Mills, with the ball, during their NBA match (AFP photo)

## Spurs back on top as Pacers, Suns lose

NEW YORK (AP) — Dennis Rodman returned and rebounded.

The U.S. national Basketball Association's leading rebounder at 17.4 per game played Friday night for the first time since separating his right shoulder in a motorcycle accident on March 19. He had 15 rebounds in 22 minutes, and the San Antonio Spurs came away with a 98-88 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

David Robinson, who had 32 points and 16 rebounds, couldn't praise Rodman enough after the Spurs ended a two-game losing streak that followed a 15-game winning streak.

"It was a good, gutsy effort for him to come out and do the job that he did," Robinson said. "Right at the end there, that was the Spurs I know."

Those Spurs are now the winningest team in franchise history with a 57-20 record, and they have a two-game lead with five to play in the race to have the homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs.

"All I can say is that I'm a big fan of their ball club. They've got a chance to go a long way," Kings coach Gary St. Jean said.

Rodman missed 14 games, and his return seemed as if it might be short-lived when he left the court seconds before halftime in obvious pain from muscle spasms in his shoulder. He returned to the court and was his usual self in the second half.

"Pain drives me. It makes me get into my game that much more," Rodman said.

"I was going to do what it took to play. I just had to go out and do what I could. It was no big deal."

Sacramento, still in the running for the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot, rallied from a 60-49 deficit in the third quarter to take an 80-79 lead with 8:04 left. But San Antonio went ahead on a field goal by Rodman two minutes later and never trailed again. The Spurs held the Kings score-

less for 5 1/2 minutes and took a 93-82 lead.

"

"We wanted to make a statement against a team that we might meet in the playoffs," said Avery Johnson, who had 16 points for the Spurs. Dennis added that punch to our team. He's a prime time guy."

Mitch Richmond led Sacramento with 22 points.

Cavaliers 83, Hawks 70:

Tyrone Hill had 16 points and 18 rebounds as Cleveland won for just the second time in eight games and remained two games in front of the Hawks in the race for the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference.

Andrew Lang scored 15

points for the visiting Hawks, while John Williams scored 16 and Tony Campbell 15 for the Cavs.

Knicks 88, Pacers 84: Derek Harper's 3-pointer with 7.5 seconds to play and the shot clock winding down broke the game's final tie as the visiting Knicks moved 3 1/2 games in front of Indiana in the race for the second-best record in the Eastern Conference.

With the score tied 84-84,

Harper was wide open in the corner when he took a pass from John Starks and buried the shot.

With Charlotte's win over

Detroit, Indiana's lead in the Central Division has shrunk to one-half game.

Patrick Ewing led New

York, which has won five

straight, with 30 points.

Hornets 94, Pistons 86:

Alonzo Mourning had 23

points and 13 rebounds as

Charlotte eliminated Detroit

from playoff contention.

Greg Sutton had 12 of his

14 points in the second half,

and his 3-pointer with 3:14

left gave the visiting Hornets

an 86-81 lead.

Allan Houston scored 21

points and Grant Hill had 19

points and 11 rebounds for

the Pistons, who will miss the

playoffs for the third straight

season after qualifying for

nine consecutive years.

Timberwolves 104, Bucks

100, OT: Minnesota broke

three losing streaks: four straight losses, five losses in a row at home and 10 straight overtime defeats. The last time the Timberwolves won an overtime game was March 1992.

Isaiah Rider and Tom Gugliotta each had five points in the extra period.

The Timberwolves led by eight points with 1:48 left in regulation. Milwaukee, which had a three-game winning streak snapped and fell two games behind Beston for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, tied it on Eric Murdoch's layup with 10 seconds left.

Christian Laettner led Milwaukee with 25 points and 11 rebounds, while Glenn Robinson topped the Bucks with 28 points.

### RESULTS

	W	L	Pct.	GB
X-Orlando	55	22	.714	—
X-New York	52	25	.675	3
Charlotte	33	44	.429	22
Atlanta	30	47	.390	25
Minnesota	28	49	.364	27
San Antonio	22	55	.286	33
Denver	102	59	.524	37
Phoenix	87	—	—	—

### Eastern Conference

## Sifi says violence eased, polls are on

TUNIS (Agencies) — Algeria's Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi said on Saturday violence in the strife-ridden country had eased and the government would press on with plans to hold presidential elections this year.

"Regarding the security domain, there is a great improvement," Mr. Sifi told Algerian state-run radio's interviewer Fetia Saidi.

"There is improvement (in the security situation) because firstly of security forces efforts... election preparations are proceeding excellently," he said.

The army-backed government of President Houari Zeroual is planning to hold presidential elections this year, which it says will decide the political future of the country, racked by civil strife since 1992.

On Saturday, Mr. Zeroual held talks with leaders of the small political movement, the Development and Solidarity National Party (PNSD), the last among 11 political groups he has consulted about the elections.

Many groups at first refused even to discuss elections, saying there was too much instability and the government should open dialogue with militants fighting to overthrow it. Up to 30,000 people have died in the conflict.

Mr. Zeroual has succeeded in meeting more leaders since reports two weeks ago of a crushing military defeat which killed up to 1,000 militants. But it is still not clear how wide support for holding elections are among Algeria's political groups.

Mr. Sifi said the talks were to build consensus in favour of the polls, not to broker any power-sharing arrangements.

"The goal of the dialogue is (the presidential) elections, but not to divide up power. This is not our right. The people will decide because only they have the sovereignty," Mr. Sifi said.

"As a citizen, I'm optimistic. Every Algerian citizen believes, as much as he believes in God, that Algeria will overcome the crisis," said Mr. Sifi.

Militant leader Mezak Madani has also issued a string of conciliatory statements in recent weeks.

On Friday, Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammad Salih Dembri hinted that his government might be ready to work with part of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

"I believe it is necessary to include all the country's political tendencies in a project to defend pluralism and multiparty democracy," he said in an interview with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper.

"I have read that among grassroots (FIS) members

there is a profound revulsion against violence and terrorism and these grassroots want to be included in present efforts to reach an agreement on the perspectives for Algerian society," Mr. Dembri said.

Dembri, in Bonn for political discussions earlier this week, said that a dialogue was in progress in Algeria that "embraces all possible ideas in all political forces," adding that he believed it was necessary "to encourage the dynamic of dialogue in Algeria."

He denied that the security situation had deteriorated — "on the contrary it has improved."

There were still "tensions" but he said he was optimistic about the early reestablishment of "almost normal conditions of security."

He reiterated that he had not raised the cases of individual Algerian citizens living in Germany in the course of his talks with German leaders, among them Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Interior Minister Manfred Kanther.

But he emphasised that international law forbids citizens of a state who have sought asylum abroad to carry out actions against their country of origin.

Algiers has asked Bonn to extradite Algerians condemned to prison or death. The family of Abassi Madani, founder of the FIS, and its overseas spokesman, Rabah Kabir, live in Germany.

Meanwhile the leader of an armed Islamic gang and four of his men were killed in Algeria's southern Medea region, the daily Al Watan reported Saturday, although it did not say when and how the killings happened.

Gang leader Hantabli was a "particularly dangerous criminal" who terrorised the Medea region with his barbarity," it said, blaming him for the murder two years ago of an army captain who was kidnapped and had his throat cut before being beheaded. His head was found on a public bench.

However, the paper did not say whether the militants belonged to the Armed Islamic Group (GLA) or its rival Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), two extremist groups opposed to the country's secular regime.

The Arab-language daily Al Khabar said three Islamic fundamentalists were killed Thursday in a clash with security forces at Bir Al Ater near the Tunisian border.

The three, who had been hiding in a house overnight, were surrounded and killed by a grenade thrown into the building in a fire fight lasting more than an hour, the paper added, saying two of the security forces were injured.

## Accident in Egypt

EGYPTIANS SURVEY the damage of a train-bus collision in which 44 people died and 33 were injured in the Nile Delta region north of Cairo (See page 2)

The crash happened when a bus crossed a railway line ignoring a stop sign. The bus was cut in two and completely destroyed (AFP photo)



## Arad was caught by Dirani — report

NICOSIA (Agencies) — An Israeli fighter pilot who went missing over Lebanon in 1986

fell into the hands of a Lebanese fundamentalist, Mustafa Dirani, who held him in Bekaa Valley, a hard-line Palestinian leader said.

Ahmad Jibril, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), said however, he had "no information on the fate of the pilot," Ron Arad.

Arad was shot dead on Oct. 16, 1986 over southern Lebanon, near Sidon. Sheikh Dirani, a former intelligence chief with the Shiite Muslim Amal militia who is now close to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, was kidnapped by Israeli agents in May 1994 and taken to the Jewish state for questioning about Arad.

"We proclaim our determination to resist (the Western countries) until the day of resurrection and will not accept that the United States be God on earth," he said.

"More than one million Libyans are ready to fight all along the Libyan coasts, and to change the desert, waters, and sands into hell... our fighting is continuing and shame and defeat to the imperialists and the traitors."

Col. Qadhafi was making a midnight speech at Azizia

## Defiant Qadhafi marks U.S. air raid on Libya

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Saturday marked the ninth anniversary of a U.S. raid on Libya with a call to the U.N. to probe all violent incidents linked to Tripoli in the past decade, including the Lockerbie bombing.

Colonel Qadhafi also renewed a pledge that hundreds of thousands of Libyans were ready to defend their country against the "imperialists."

"On April 15, 1986, U.S. warplanes flying from British bases and U.S. aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean bombed targets in Tripoli and Benghazi. Libya said more than 40 people were killed, nearly all civilians."

Washington said the raid was in response to an explosion at a Berlin discotheque in which two Americans were killed. The U.S. blamed Libya but Tripoli denied the charge.

Washington then blamed Libya for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people. It said the attack was carried out to avenge the Libya raid.

Col. Qadhafi said the bombing of Lockerbie was the result of a "security zone" he had imposed.

He was referring to a confrontation between Libyan planes and U.S.-based aircraft off Libya in 1985.

"These are rounds of related to each other... therefore how can we deal with only one round and discuss

only the Lockerbie case," Col. Qadhafi said.

"If Libya has downed the Pan Am over Lockerbie, why did it do it, the Security Council must probe into this...

"... how does it accept discussing locker 'A' and not locker 'B,'" he asked. "We do not reject to submit all these cases to the security council."

Furthermore, we welcome that."

The Libyan leader also denounced what he called the United States efforts to spy on him.

"Libya was a concern for the U.S. officials more than the former Soviet Union. They devoted a huge amount of material and human means to gather information on Qadhafi, to watch him, to follow up my moves even in the desert, to spy on the (Libyan) diplomatic transmissions and his (Qadhafi's) telephone conversations...." he said.

## Artillery battles set S. Lebanon hospital ablaze

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas Saturday fought artillery duels with Israeli troops in South Lebanon, setting a hospital afire and forcing thousands to spend Easter eve in underground shelters, security sources said.

A nurse, three pro-Israeli militiamen and a guerrilla were wounded in hostilities touched off by a hit-and-run guerrilla attack on an outpost of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia at daybreak, the sources said.

The guerrillas raked the SLA outpost in the eastern sector of an Israeli-occupied

border enclave with mortar fire and rocket-propelled grenades, the sources said.

The three wounded militiamen were evacuated to a hospital in Marjayoun, the main town in the enclave, which Israel calls a "security zone," the sources said.

Israeli and SLA positions struck back with prolonged barrages of howitzer and tank cannon fire on suspected Hezbollah bases at four villages in the western sector of the Bekaa Valley.

Ten houses were damaged in the village of Ain Al Tineh, where the guerrilla

was wounded, said the sources.

Hizbullah positions unleashed volleys of Katyusha rockets on Marjayoun and its environs at mid-afternoon behind sustained mortar fire, the sources said.

Eight projectiles crashed in and around Marjayoun's 170-bed hospital, setting the enclave's main medical center ablaze. The nurse suffered a shrapnel wound as patients were frantically evacuated to the hospital's basement, the sources said.

Ten houses were damaged in the village of Ain Al Tineh, where the guerrilla

## Dubai denies transit to Israelis

DUBAI (Agencies) — Dubai has refused to let a group of Israelis through its international airport as transit passengers, airport security sources said Saturday.

The group of 20 arrived Thursday from the Omani capital Muscat aboard a Kuwait Airways flight apparently on their way back to Israel after attending a water pollution conference in Oman.

The plane was forced to fly the Israelis back to Muscat, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Kuwait Airways officials said they were investigating why airlines personnel allowed the Israelis on the flight without first checking whether they would get transit clearance in Dubai.

From Dubai the Israelis would have had to fly to another airport outside the region since none of the Gulf states have direct air links with Israel.

The Al Khaleej daily of the neighbouring Sharjah emirate reported that the action was in line with UAE policy to shun ties with Israel until it reaches peace agreements with Syria and Lebanon.

The UAE's five Gulf allies officially maintain the same policy.

However, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain have allowed visits from some Israeli leaders and private sector representatives for regional conferences and fostering of business contacts.

In Kuwait, an official said the Kuwaiti government was investigating the report.

Concerned officials are investigating the case of the Kuwait Airways flight that carried passengers with Israeli documents, the official, who refused to be named, told Reuters.

He would not elaborate.

## Sudan denies conscripts being sent to fight rebels

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — A Sudanese official has denied a government roundup of young men was aimed at gathering troops to fight against rebels in southern Sudan and said those recruited were used to develop the country.

The comment by Abul Al Haboob, deputy coordinator for the national service, was published Saturday in the government daily Al Sudan Al Hadith following complaints that soldiers were stopping buses to seize young men of draft age.

Mr. Haboob warned government institutions not to issue forged documents to help youths avoid national service, noting his department had discovered several such cases.

In the past four days, the government has stepped up the year-old campaign against draft dodgers, adding checkpoints around Khartoum's major areas. Men of draft age are asked to prove they are exempt from the required two-year military service or are taken to training camps.

The lack of information on what happens to those taken away has angered even supporters of General Omar Hassan Al Bashir's government, with people claiming the recruits were being sent to fight the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

But Israeli officials said Israel had no firm proof that Arad was alive.

Israel says six of its service men are missing in Lebanon, some since 1982. They include Arad.

Col. Jibril, who was interviewed in Damascus, spoke of four bodies and Arad. But he said there were other Israeli killed in fighting during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon "who may have been mistaken for Syrian soldiers and buried in Syria."

Yossi Fine and Rahamim Alsheikh were wounded when captured by Hezbollah in an Israeli-occupied enclave in South Lebanon on Feb. 17, 1986. Hezbollah has said they both died shortly thereafter.

The rebels, who are mostly Christians and animists, took up arms to demand more autonomy from the Muslim-dominated government, and more development for southern Sudan.

In Nairobi, rebels accused government forces of conducting intensive bombing raids on their positions in southern Sudan despite a ceasefire in the region, saying civilian camps were hit in the men.

The rebel South Sudan Independence Movement and Army (SSIMA) said the raids were made Friday on its positions in the Lopit Hills in the eastern Equatoria region, in a statement received by AFP here late Friday.

It said government air force troops using Russian-made Antonov planes in the raid, with bombs falling on settlement camps for people displaced by the country's long-running civil war.

The statement gave no details on any casualties.

The SSIA statement said the raids were "another" violation of a ceasefire brokered last month by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and urged the international community to react to what it called "this callous and barbaric act" against civilians in southern Sudan.

The rebel faction has already accused the Sudanese government of violating the ceasefire announced by Gen. Bashir on March 28 by attacking SSIA forces on several fronts.

The areas attacked included Fangak in central Upper Nile, Maiwut in eastern Upper Nile, Lafon in eastern Equatoria and Buluk in northern Upper Nile, according to "rebels."

Neither the army nor the rebels have gained an upper hand in the 12-year-old civil war. An estimated 1.3 million

people have been killed in the fighting and in resulting famines.

The rebels, who are mostly Christians and animists, took up arms to demand more autonomy from the Muslim-dominated government, and more development for southern Sudan.

## Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline ready to resume pumping

ANKARA (AP) — A double pipeline linking the Kirkuk oilfields in northern Iraq with the Turkish Mediterranean terminal of Yumurtalik is ready to resume operations if Baghdad accepts a U.N. resolution authorising limited sales of crude oil industry officials said here Saturday.

The U.N. resolution adopted by the 15-member Security Council Friday said Iraq could sell up to \$1 billion worth of oil each quarter but would have to comply with U.N. restrictions on the use of the funds.

Resolution 986 said most of the Iraqi oil could be exported through the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline and Turkey would receive transit payment.

"One of the pipelines, measuring 102 centimetres in diameter, is ready for the pumping of oil. The section on Turkish territory is operational and the Iraqi says their section is too," said one oil industry official.

"If Iraq accepts (the resolution), pumping could start within 20 days."

The official, who asked not to be named, told AFP the second pipeline, measuring 117 centimetres in diameter, had been sabotaged several times by Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels, and would be repaired soon.

The Turkish government shut down the double pipeline in line with the U.N. embargo imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Iranian government has also accused the rebels of violating the ceasefire.

The Turkish government has also accused the rebels of violating the ceasefire.

## COLUMN 8

### U.S. Navy's 'Love Boat' cruise ends

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) — The first U.S. warship to set sail with a women's crew members turned to its home port Saturday, ending a cruise during which pregnancies and videotape sex.

An estimated 5,000 people were on the docks for arrival at around 3:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) of the Eisenhower at the end of six month Mediterranean cruise.

When the cruise began in October, the ship had 415 women among its crew and aircrew.

15 women had been transferred due to pregnancies and videotape sex.

Emphasized that all but one conceived before boarding the ship. Two others conceived during shore leave.

Europe with their husbands and an unmarried woman also conceived while on shore leave.

Leaving the ship, a man and a woman videotape having sex on board were disciplined and sent ashore, as was a woman who watched the tape but didn't report it.

Other women were transferred for disciplinary, administrative or humanitarian reasons, compared to 22 men reassigned for the same reasons.

The navy pronounced the experience a success.